4/14/83 S0290-1(u) A

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

1982 ANNUAL REPORT

©NEENA BIRCH 1982

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Alaska Court System

State of Alaska

303 "K" STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99501

ARTHUR H. SNOWDEN II
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

(907) 274-8611

February 1, 1983

THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE
AND JUSTICES OF THE ALASKA SUPREME COURT

It is my pleasure to transmit to you the 1982 Annual Report for the Alaska Court System. This report covers the operations of the supreme court, the court of appeals, the trial courts and the administrative office.

I wish to thank the many judicial officers and clerks of the appellate and trial courts for their cooperation in reporting judicial statistics to this office.

I also wish to thank Alaska artist Neena Birch for permitting us to reproduce one of her prints on the cover of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur H. Snowden II

Arthur H. Snowden, II
Administrative Director

AHS,II/smh

INTRODUCTION

The Alaska judiciary has a unified, centrally administered, and totally state funded judicial system. County and municipal governments do not maintain a separate court system. There are four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System, consisting of two appellate courts, (the supreme court and the court of appeals), and a two-tiered trial court (the superior courts and the district courts). The supreme court is charged with the responsibility of administering the state-wide system. While the supreme court maintains ultimate control over the administrative policies of the court, most of the administrative matters are delegated to the administrative director and his staff. This annual report reflects the change made in 1981 to the use of fiscal rather than a calendar year. This annual report provides court caseloads, statistics, and fiscal information on a fiscal year basis, in this instance the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1981 and ending June 30, 1982 (FY 82). This reporting cycle has been used so that the court system report may coincide with the annual budgeting and legislative cycle.

The various sections of the annual report discuss the activites of the appellate and trial courts: their organization, jurisdiction, caseloads and other information. Other sections discuss the activities of the administrative office of the Alaska Court System and include reports on its budget and fiscal affairs, capital projects and improvements, developments in the state law library system, analysis of the court system's effectiveness at implementing an equal employee opportunity program, and other administrative subjects. A special reports section is also included. This section contains individual reports on the new data processing applications throughout the court system, the planning for a new Anchorage courthouse addition, the capital budget for FY 84 (which is a request for funding to modernize the courtroom reporting equipment) and analysis of the structure and justification for the establishment of an Office of Public Advocacy.

Finally, the Annual Report contains a fiscal supplement with a complete set of data for the appellate and trial courts during the 1982 fiscal year. The glossary explaining many of the terms used in the Annual Report is provided at the end of the report.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

I. APPELLATE COURTS

Supreme Court....................1
Court of Appeals....................2
Appellate Court Caseload....................3
Court Rules Revisions....................15

II. TRIAL COURTS

Perspective of Alaska Justice....................17
First Judicial District....................19
Second Judicial District....................21
Third Judicial District....................23
Fourth Judicial District....................26
Trial Courts Statistical Summary - FY 82....................27
Superior Court Jurisdiction and Caseload....................29
District Court Jurisdiction and Caseload....................33
Magistrates....................41
Judicial Training....................43

III. ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Affairs....................45
Capital Improvements....................47
Affirmative Action....................51
Employee Achievement Award Program....................53
Law Libraries....................54
Forms Committee FY 82....................55
Court Specialist's Report....................56

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS

Automation in the Court System....................59
Anchorge Courthouse Expansion Project....................61
Proposed Office of Public Advocacy....................62
Capital Budget - Electronic Court Recording Equipment....................64
Legislation Affecting the Courts....................66

V. STATISTICS

Forword....................S-i
Index to Statistical Tables....................S-iii
Appellate Courts....................S-3
Statewide Trial Courts....................S-15
Superior Court....................S-23
District Court (High Volume)....................S-47
District Court (Low Volume)....................S-71

VI. GLOSSARY....................S-79

Supreme Court Members. Front row (left to right): Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz; Chief Justice Edmond W. Burke; Justice Roger G. Connor. Back row: Justice Warren W. Matthews; Justice Allen T. Compton.

APPELLATE COURTS

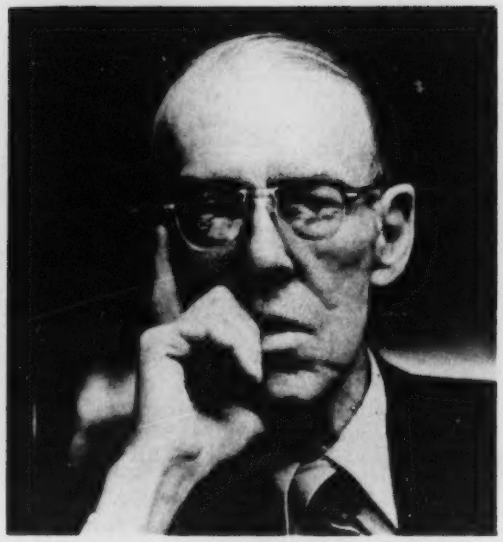
The Appellate Courts of the State of Alaska consist of a five member supreme court and a three member court of appeals. The supreme court was established by the Alaska Constitution in 1959. The court of appeals was created by the Alaska Legislature in 1980.

THE SUPREME COURT

Members

As of December 31, 1982, the justices comprising the supreme court were as follows:

	Years on Supreme Court
Chief Justice Edmond W. Burke Anchorage	8
Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz Fairbanks	18
Justice Roger G. Connor Anchorage	14
Justice Warren W. Matthews Anchorage	6
Justice Allen T. Compton Juneau	2



Senior Justice John H. Dimond

Senior Justice John H. Dimond, who retired in 1971, was recalled to full-time service for 8 months during the 1981-82 fiscal year. Justice Dimond, who was a member of the original supreme court, is scheduled to return to full-time service on the court for six months every year. He served for a longer period during 1981-82 because of the continuing high workload of cases facing the supreme court.

Chief Justice Burke hands Court of Appeals Secretary Bonnie Johnson her fifteen year service pin.

In addition to Justice Dimond's contribution, on 20 occasions during fiscal year 81-82 Chief Justice Burke designated a judge of the court of appeals, superior court or district court to serve as a supreme court justice pro tempore when one or more of the justices were either disqualified or unavailable to hear a case. Seventeen different judges received at least one such pro tempore assignment to the supreme court.

THE COURT OF APPEALS

Members

As of December 31, 1982, the judges comprising the court of appeals were as follows:

	Years on Court of Appeals
Chief Judge Alex O. Bryner	2-1/2
Judge James K. Singleton	2-1/2
Judge Robert G. Coats	2-1/2

On 24 occasions during fiscal year 81-82, Chief Justice Burke designated a justice of the supreme court or a judge of the superior or district court to serve as a court of appeals judge pro tempore when one or more of the judges were either disqualified or unavailable to hear a case. Two supreme court justices, 13 superior court judges, and one district judge received at least one such pro tempore assignment to the court of appeals.

Appellate Court Organization and Jurisdiction

In 1980 the appellate structure of Alaska's courts changed dramatically with the establishment of the court of appeals. The Alaska Legislature created the court of appeals to relieve the supreme court of some of its steadily increasing caseload.

The court of appeals commenced operation in mid-September of 1980.

The supreme court retained its ultimate authority in all cases, yet concentrated its attention on civil appellate matters. The court of appeals was given authority in criminal and quasi-criminal matters (for example, juvenile delinquency, probation and habeas corpus cases). The supreme court has discretion in criminal cases to grant or deny requests to review decisions of the court of appeals. The supreme court may also take jurisdiction of a criminal case pending before the court of appeals if the court of appeals certifies that the case involves a significant question of constitutional law or an issue of substantial public interest.

Court of Appeals Members. Left to right: Judge James K. Singleton; Chief Judge Alex O. Bryner; Judge Robert G. Coats.

District court judgments in misdemeanor criminal cases may be appealed either to the superior court or directly to the court of appeals, at the appellant's (either the defendant or the prosecutor) option. The party who appeals his case from the district to the superior court can ask the court of appeals to review the superior court decision. However, the court of appeals may refuse to hear the appeal. If the party appeals a district court judgment directly to the court of appeals, bypassing the superior court, the court of appeals must hear the appeal.

The combined jurisdiction of the state's two appellate courts is broader than the pre-1980 jurisdiction of the supreme court, since for the first time district court criminal decisions may be appealed directly to the court of appeals, bypassing the superior court. Under the old legislation, the supreme court had jurisdiction in such cases only after the case had been reviewed by the superior court.

COMBINED APPELLATE COURT CASELOAD ACTIVITY

Filings

Table 1 shows that there was a 17% increase in the number of appellate court filings during FY 82, as compared to FY 81. Table 1 refers to the filings in both appellate courts. The growth in appellate court filings has resulted entirely from an increase in criminal cases. During FY 82 a total of 399 criminal and sentence appeals were filed in the appellate courts. That represented a 60% increase over FY 81.

There were 278 merit criminal appeals in the supreme court and court of appeals combined in FY 82. That was 47% more than the 189

TABLE 1

APPELLATE COURT ACTIVITY

	Court of Appeals & Supreme Court Calendar 1980	Court of Appeals & Supreme Court FY 1980 - 1981	FY 81 - 82
Filings*	641	755	868
Dispositions	604	686	750
Pending At End Of Period	683	739	861

FILINGS OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

	Court of Appeals & Supreme Court Calendar 1980	Court of Appeals & Supreme Court FY 1980 - 1981	FY 81 - 82
Merit Appeals	139	189	278
Sentence Appeals	67	57	121
Total Appeals	206	249	399

*Filings include cases that have been reinstated.

Pictured from front: Judge Roger Peques, Senior Justice John Dimond, Justice Allen Compton, Judge Thomas B. Stewart and retired California Superior Court Judge Carpeneti look on as Walter Carpeneti takes his oath of office. Photo by Mark Kelly of the Juneau Empire.

merit appeals reported in FY 81. Sentence appeals increased from 57 in FY 81 to 121 in FY 82, more than a 100% increase.

The increase in the number of merit appeals is the result of several factors. Included in this figure are 144 felony appeals to the court of appeals, which is a higher volume than in any year except 1977, when 156 felony appeals were filed. As the volume of criminal cases at the trial court level has increased, so has the felony appeals. Additionally, petitions for discretionary review by the supreme court were filed in 35 cases which had been appealed to and decided by the court of appeals, creating an additional internal workload.

Another factor adding to the merit appeal caseload is the changes in the jurisdictional statutes adopted as part of the court of appeals act. Prior to the organization of the court of appeals, misdemeanor convictions in the district court could be appealed by right to the superior court and thereafter by right a second time to the supreme court, although only a handful were appealed a second time. The 1980 statute gave the appellant only one appeal by right, but it also gave him a choice of appealing to a single judge of the superior court or the three member court of appeals. The 101 such appeals filed directly with the court of appeals is substantially more than was anticipated at the time the court of appeals act was passed.

The 121 sentence appeals filed in FY 82 are far more than in any previous year. The major contributing factor is undoubtedly the presumptive sentencing scheme for repeat and violent felony offenders. Presumptive sentencing took effective for offenses committed on and after January 1, 1980, so it is only during this year that it began to affect the appellate load significantly. It contributed to the growth in caseload in several ways: appeals to obtain definitive judicial construction of the new provisions; a general overall increase in the length of sentences imposed, creating a greater incentive to appeal; and ineligibility for probation and parole of offenders subject to presumptive sentencing.

Enacted simultaneously with presumptive sentencing was a completely revised Alaska Criminal Code, which also took effect for offenses committed on or after January 1, 1980. The new code redefines nearly all criminal offenses and has produced many appeals and interlocutory applications to test the meaning and constitutionality of its provisions.

Dispositions

The combined appellate courts disposed of 750 cases in FY 82, a 10% increase over FY 81. The supreme court dispositions were 146 fewer than the previous year, whereas the court of appeals disposed of 210 more cases than it did in FY 81.

Pending Cases

At the end of FY 82, there were 861 cases pending in the appellate courts. This is the highest level of pending cases in the history of the appellate courts, and represents approximately a 17% increase over the level of pending cases during FY 81. Even though the disposition rate did increase in FY 82, it was not sufficient to keep up with the higher increase in the rate of filings.

Geographic Origin of Cases Pending in the Appellate Courts

The geographic origin of pending cases in the supreme court remained approximately constant in percentages from the distribution a year earlier. As shown in Table 2, the third judicial district continued to

TABLE 2
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF PENDING CASES AS OF JUNE 30, 1982*

	Supreme Court		Court of Appeals	
		% of total		% of total
Juneau	28		10	
Ketchikan	10		13	
Sitka	9		6	
Total First District	47	(11%)	29	(6%)
Nome	0		4	
Kotzebue	2		3	
Bethel	6		19	
Total Second District	8	(2%)	26	(6%)
Anchorage	226		189	
Kenai	15		36	
Kodiak	12		12	
Homer	7		4	
Palmer	1		2	
Cordova	0		3	
Unalaska	0		1	
Seward	0		2	
Glennallen	0		1	
Dillingham	0		2	
Naknek	0		4	
Total Third District	261	(63%)	256	(57%)
Fairbanks	96		119	
Barrow	0		15	
Galena	0		1	
Delta Junction	0		1	
Nenana	0		1	
Healy	0		1	
Total Fourth District	96	(23%)	138	(31%)
STATE TOTALS	412		449	

*For statistical purposes: Bethel is included in the 2nd judicial district although technically it is in the 4th judicial district; Barrow is included in the 4th district, although technically it is in the 2nd district.

represent approximately 63% of all cases, with the fourth district reflecting 23%, the first district 11%, and the second district 2%.

In the court of appeals, the geographic origin of pending cases shifted slightly towards the fourth judicial district. This district increased from 25% of the total cases in FY 81 to 31% in FY 82. The first and second districts remain at 6% each.

TABLE 3

SUPREME COURT FILINGS
1977 - FY 81/82

	1977	1978	1979	80/81	81/82
Filings:					
Appeals					
Civil	251	256	305	301	257
Criminal	156	135	133	31	33
Sentence	63	56	40	17	1
TOTAL APPEALS	470	447	478	349	291
Petitions for Review	126	156	141	120	104
Original Applications	17	27	37	24	14
TOTAL	613	630	656	493	409

SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Filings

A total of 409 cases was filed or reinstated in the supreme court during FY 82. Of these filings, 257 were civil appeals, 33 criminal appeals, 1 sentence appeal, 104 petitions for review, and 14 original applications.

Thirty-five petitions for hearing were filed in the supreme court from decisions issued by the court of appeals. Of these 35, the supreme court granted review in nine cases.

The new civil appeals were less than FY 81, but were typical of the number of appeals filed for the past five years. Petitions remain at a very high level. Comparison to

TABLE 4

PETITIONS FOR HEARING FROM THE COURT OF APPEALS

1981 - 82 Fiscal Year

	Felony Merit	Misdemeanor Merit	Sentence	Petition & Misc.	Total
Pending 6/30/81	4	0	0	1	5
Filed	18	9	1	7	35
Granted	6	3	0	0	9
Denied	11	3	0	8	22
Pending 6/30/82	5	3	1	0	9

TABLE 5

SUPREME COURT DISPOSITIONS*
1977 - FY 81/82

	1977	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82
APPEALS					
Civil	201	225	254	264	273
Criminal	88	131	139	104	26
Sentence	40	43	55	32	1
TOTAL	329	399	448	400	300
Petitions for Review	103	136	150	146	102
Original Applications	18	25	36	22	20
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	450	560	634	568	422
Type of Disposition					
On Merits	231	302	338	348	209
Petition for Review or Original Application Denied	67	99	100	88	98
Dismissals	152	159	196	132	115
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	450	560	634	568	422
Opinions Published*	189	237	234	263	140
Memorandum Opinion and Judgments	0	15	38	19	21

*Full opinions published in the Pacific Reporter.

previous years is difficult since prior to September 1980 the criminal as well as civil petitions for review were filed directly with the supreme court. But the combined total of both types of petitions for review was 86 in 1976 and 126 in 1977, compared to 104 - all civil - in the current year. This category includes petitions for hearing in civil cases which originated in the district court and were reviewed on appeal in superior court.

Supreme Court Dispositions

The supreme court disposed of 422 matters during FY 82, with 209 dispositions on the merits, 98 petition denials, and 115 dismissals. By comparison the court disposed of 634 matters in 1979 and 568 during FY 81. During those years, the supreme court had a nearly full load of criminal matters as well as civil cases.

The number of civil appeal dispositions grew to an all time high of

TABLE 6

SUPREME COURT CASES PENDING
1977 - FY 81/82

	1977	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82
Appeals					
Civil	268	297	346	366	353
Criminal	200	209	200	13	23
Sentence	39	51	39	1	1
TOTAL	507	557	585	380	377
Petitions for Review	43	61	54	28	29
Original Applications	4	6	7	10	6
TOTAL CASES PENDING	554	624	646	418	412

273, compared to 264 in FY 81 and 254 in calendar year 1979. Once the supreme court was relieved of the bulk of its criminal caseload, its civil appeal dispositions rose slightly.

With the loss of the criminal caseload, the number of published opinions dropped substantially. In FY 81, the court published an all time high of 263 opinions. During FY 82 only 140 opinions were published. The number of brief, unpublished memorandum opinions and judgments remained roughly constant, at 21 in FY 82.

The five justices of the supreme court in regular service wrote an average of 26 opinions each, while senior Justice John Dimond wrote eight. These totals do not include separate concurrences and dissents.

Supreme Court Pending Cases

As shown in Table 6, as of June 30, 1982, there were 412 cases pending in the supreme court. That is approximately the same number of pending cases as the court had at the end of FY 81. The number of civil appeal dispositions and the number of total dispositions slightly exceeded the number of filings for the fiscal year so the court kept up with the filings but did not significantly cut into the number of undecided civil appeals remaining before it.

Time Period for Disposition of Cases

The average length of time for the disposition of a civil appeal by the supreme court decreased from 657 days in cases decided in FY 81 to 623 days for cases decided during FY 82. This amounts to approximately one year, eight and a half months, which is still approximately twice the length established by the

TABLE 7

ALASKA SUPREME COURT
AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION (IN DAYS) BY STAGE OF PROCESSING

For Cases Closed by Opinion or MO&J and Mandate

	1979			FY 1980/81			FY 81/82
	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Civil Appeals[1]
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	104	124	64	96	142	54	81
Record Certification to Last Brief	145	195	93	147	199	87	160
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	89	73	11	91	77	55	88
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	130	125	129	137	173	143	121
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	107	62	87	153	129	154	152
Publication to Closing	34	20	11	33	17	13	21
Average Time to Disposition	609	599	395	657	737	506	623
Shortest Total Number of Days	214	108	220	193	215	351	169
Longest Total Number of Days	1,408	1,803	722	1,492	1,417	735	1,206
Number of Cases Averaged	(139)	(107)	(38)	(180)	(93)	(23)	(169)

[1] The number of criminal and sentence appeals decided during this period was very small and is not a representative sample.

TABLE 8

COURT OF APPEALS
FILINGS AND TRANSFERS FROM SUPREME COURT
FY 81/82

	FY 81[1]	FY 82
Appeals		
Merit Appeals:		
Direct from Superior Court	208	144
Direct from District Court	59	101
From District Court via Superior Court	37	0
	304	245
Sentence Appeals:		
Direct from Superior Court	67	107
Direct from District Court	3	13
From District Court via Superior Court	2	0
	72	120
Total Appeals	376	365
Petitions for Review:		
Direct from Superior Court	28	32
Direct from District Court	13	27
From District Court via Superior Court	17	21
Total Petitions for Review	58	80
Original Applications	5	14
Totals	439	459

[1] Includes cases transferred from supreme court at start-up of new court.

appellate rules and the internal operating procedures of the court. The average length of time a civil appeal was under advisement, from submission to decision, in the supreme court stood at 273 days for cases decided in FY 82. This represents a slight decline from the 290 days for cases decided in FY 81. The average time required for preparation of civil records continued to decline, due to more aggressive enforcement of the time limits specified in appellate rule 210(g). The sheer number of new appeals, and the resulting backlogs in the trial court clerk's office kept the average at 81 days, approximately twice the 40 day maximum specified in the rules. This is still 15 days less than the average time for cases decided during FY 81.

COURT OF APPEALS

Case Filings in the Court of Appeals

During FY 82, 459 criminal matters were either filed or reinstated in the court of appeals. As Table 7 shows, there were 245 merit appeals, 120 sentence appeals, 80 petitions for review, 14 original applica-

TABLE 9

COURT OF APPEALS DISPOSITIONS
FY 82

	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District Via Superior	Total
Appeals:				
Merit	109	42	23	174
Sentence	53	10	0	63
Total Appeals	162	52	23	237
Petitions for Review	30	27	22	79
Original Applications	N/A	N/A	N/A	12
Total Dispositions	192	79	45	328

tions. This compares to 262 matters filed in FY 81. (Table 8 reflects the transfer of 177 cases from the supreme court to the court of appeals in FY 81, the first year of operation of the court of appeals.) As noted earlier, both the felony appeal case load and misdemeanor appeals have increased dramatically. The largest increase has been in the misdemeanor appeals direct from district court, which accounted for 40% of all criminal appeals in FY 82.

Court of Appeals Dispositions

As Table 9 indicates, the court of appeals disposed of 328 cases during FY 82, including 237 [criminal and sentence] appeals, 79 petitions for review, and 12 original applications. Nearly 25% of these dispositions were in cases originating directly from the district court.

The 328 dispositions in FY 82 are compared to the 118 cases disposed of in the first nine months of the court of appeals' operation from September 1980 to June 1981. The court has worked out its internal procedures in a manner to expedite the processing of cases, and dispositions should continue to rise in future years. However, due to the high volume of criminal appeals in FY 82, dispositions lagged substantially behind filings, and the pending case load correspondingly increased. The addition of a second law clerk for each judge of the court of appeals in July 1982 should greatly aid the court in increasing its disposition rate. One manner in which the court of appeals is accomplishing a high rate of disposition is by publishing less than half of its dispositions on the merits. During FY 82, 69 decisions were published and 97 were not. Unpublished decisions are without precedential effect and may not be cited to or by the courts of the state. However, these decisions are distributed to all trial judges.

TABLE 10

COURT OF APPEALS PENDING CASES
End of FY 82

	Direct from Superior Court	Direct from District Court	From District Via Superior Court	Total
Appeals				
Merit	214	114	2	330
Sentence	95	5	1	101
Total Appeals	309	119	3	431
Petitions	7	3	7	17
Original Applications	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Total Pending Cases	316	122	10	449

Pending Cases in the Court of Appeals

The number of pending cases in the court of appeals increased from 321 at the end of FY 81 to 449 at the end of FY 82. This increase was a result of a large volume of criminal appeals filed in FY 82. The court anticipates that with the additional resources available to it in FY 83, the dispositions in FY 83 should be greater than the number of cases filed in FY 83 so that the pending case load can be reduced next year.

Time for Disposition of Cases in the Court of Appeals

As shown on Table 11, the average time of disposition of a felony merit appeal was 638 days for those cases decided in FY 82. Misdemeanor appeals directly from the district courts took an average of 347 days, while indirect appeals which passed through appellate review by the superior court took an average of 609 days. Sentence appeals required an average of 341 days in felony cases and 230 days in misdemeanor cases.

Prior to the establishment of the court of appeals, the supreme court required an average of 696 days for criminal merit appeals and 502 days for sentence appeals. The establishment of the court of appeals has therefore provided some improvement in these time frames, although the court realizes that these appeals need substantial additional expediting if acceptable time standards are to be reached.

At the request of the court of appeals, in July 1981 the supreme court promulgated Appellate Rule 217, which directs expedited record preparation and briefing in misdemeanor appeals. This rule provides that, unless ordered by the court, misdemeanor appeals will be considered on a cassette recording without preparation of written transcripts. This not only speeds up the completion of misdemeanor records, but it also expedites the preparation of felony records by reducing the total volume of transcripts required to be prepared by trial court personnel. Also, in 1981 the court of appeals tightened its standards for granting exten-

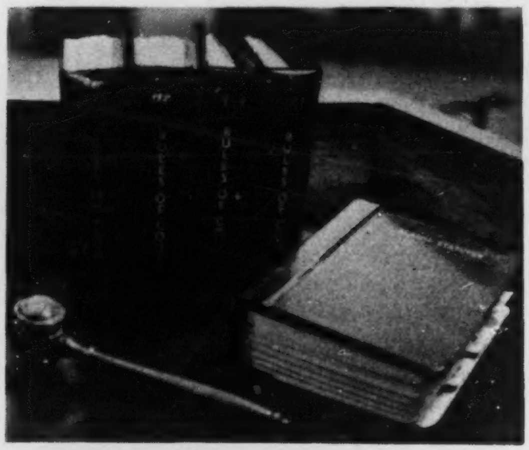
TABLE 11

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS
AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITIONS (IN DAYS) BY STAGE OF PROCESSING

For Cases Closed by Opinion or Unpublished Disposition on the Merits

	Felony Merit Appeals	Misdemeanor Merit Appeals		Felony Sentence Appeals	Misdemeanor Sentence Appeals
		Direct	Indirect		Direct
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	104	47	48	34	47
Record Certification to Last Brief	203	88	158	79	57
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	112	59	138	61	45
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	104	76	119	87	23
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	85	58	118	60	45
Publication to Closing	29	18	28	20	12
Average Time	637	346	609	341	229
Shortest Total Number of Days	69	130	267	146	112
Longest Total Number of Days	1,292	556	977	669	371
Number of Cases Averaged	(68)	(20)	(20)	(37)	(3)

sions of time to file briefs in all criminal cases. It is hoped that these efforts will lead to faster disposition of cases in future years.



COURT RULES REVISIONS

The Alaska Constitution empowers the supreme court to make rules outlining the practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases and governing the administration of courts. Rules adopted in 1982 promote increased public accessibility to the judicial system.

Access to Public Records

Public records within the Alaska Court System are open for inspection, according to Administrative Rule 37.5, effective February 1, 1982. This rule ensures that members of the public, the press and the media will be given reasonable access and opportunity to inspect public records on file with the courts.

The new rule encourages access to a wide range of court records. Written documents are open for inspection and can be copied for a reduced fee of twenty cents per page. The public can also listen to tapes and watch video recordings of court proceedings. Copies will be provided at a nominal fee. Public access is extended to include photographic materials, maps, magnetic tapes and punch cards. Judges' notes relating to the adjudication of legal issues are confidential in keeping with the court's obligation to maintain fairness and impartiality.

A written request to inspect a record about a court proceeding may be made through the clerk of court at any time, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Interested persons will be able to look at original records or reasonable facsimiles in the area of the court where they are normally kept. Inspection of records which are readily available must be permitted within two days of the request.

If the clerk withholds a record on the grounds that it is confidential, the denial can be appealed in writing to the administrative director of the court system. He will review the request and must provide a response within seven working days.

The rule covers all documents in whole or in part which are filed with the courts, or prepared, owned or used by the court system. Because these records contain information relating to the conduct of the public's business, court system policy requires easy and open access.

Cameras in the Courtroom

Amendments to the Judicial Canons make it easier for the media to broadcast state court proceedings. An order of the supreme court, effective February 1, 1982, reduces the number of participants who can bar cameras from the courtrooms.

Under the new provisions, civil proceedings can be covered with the consent of the judge. Permission from the parties' lawyers is no longer required. Cameras may be allowed in all proceedings except family and juvenile matters.

Criminal cases will be open to media coverage as long as the judge and defendant agree. In cases dealing with sexual offenses, the permission of the victim is also needed. Arguments before the supreme court and the court of appeals can be broadcast with the consent of the court. A witness or party cannot be photographed if he/she objects. A trial participant can also preclude broadcasting of his/her testimony.

To encourage media coverage of court proceedings, every major court construction project will now include one courtroom specifically designed for electronic media coverage. The first remodeled courtroom will be available in Anchorage later this year. Plans call for a glass enclosure at the rear of the courtroom, in which the press can set up electronic equipment without disrupting proceedings. The room will be prewired and direct telephone lines will be installed.

All Anchorage television and radio media personnel must contact the audio-visual staff in the Office of the Administrative Director in Anchorage at least one day in advance of the proposed coverage to insure that all equipment will be set up in accordance with the court system's media plan.

A media booklet prepared in 1982 contains all court rules relating to media coverage. This booklet was distributed to judges and media representatives throughout the state, and is a readily accessible source of information for questions about media coverage.

Telephonic Search Warrants

An amendment to Criminal Rule 37 has made it possible for the courts to issue search warrants over the telephone. This rule amendment, along with a parallel statute passed by the legislature, frees trooper and police time for other law enforcement activities by eliminating the need for officers to appear in court in person.

Grand Juries

The list of sites at which grand juries can be convened was revised to ensure that grand juries reflect a representative cross-section of the community. The revision also permitted the presiding judge of the second judicial district to convene a grand jury at Barrow.

Fairbanks Courthouse

PERSPECTIVE OF ALASKA JUSTICE

The Alaska Court System and the other members of the criminal justice community face numerous unique challenges in delivering judicial services to citizens spread throughout the state's 566,000 square miles. The first challenge is the state's physical size and demographic patterns. According to the 1980 U.S. Census, nearly two thirds of the state's 400,481 total population resides in the metropolitan areas of Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. The remaining populace is widely dispersed throughout smaller cities and villages. These stretch from the communities of Ketchikan and Hydaburg in the southeastern panhandle, north and west 1,300 miles to Barrow and Wainwright on the Arctic Ocean, and south and west nearly 1,500 miles to the outermost islands of the Aleutian chain.

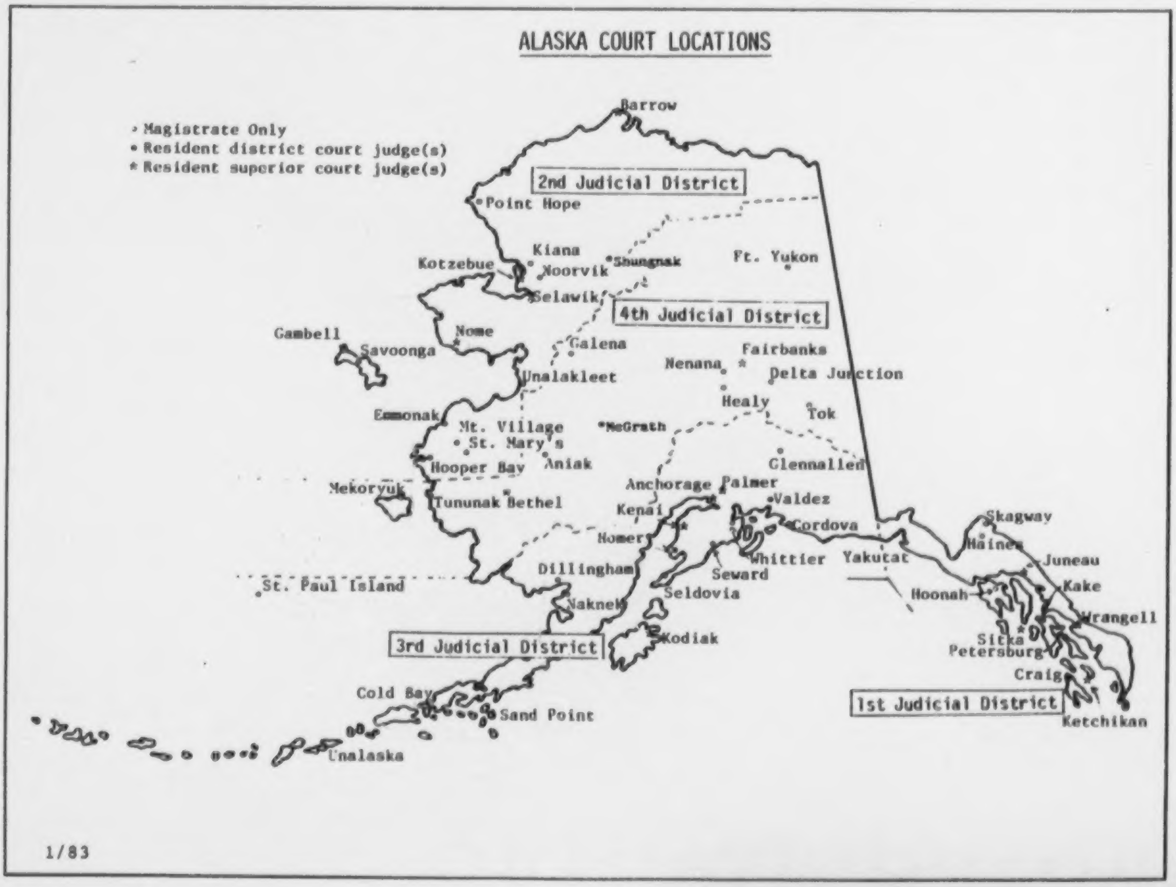
Including Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau, only 22 communities within the state have populations which exceed 1500 people. Approximately 60% of the state's native population resides in more than 150 small towns and villages outside these larger communities. Inhabiting these scattered communities are approximately 38,000 Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts, whose diverse culture and history differ significantly from the Anglo-American concepts of jurisprudence practiced in the urban areas.

The second challenge to the efficient delivery of judicial services is the lack of adequate transportation and communication to many areas within the state. Alaska may have more communities which are inaccessible by any road system than the rest of the states combined. Fewer than a dozen of the rural villages are linked with the state's limited road network or the 540-mile Alaska Railroad. Access to other villages is by air or seasonally by boat, snowmobile or dog team. Because of the effects of freezing and thawing on landing strips, many villages are inaccessible by air in the fall and spring.

Despite great advances during the past few years, the communications network within Alaska remains limited in some parts of the state. Direct telephone service has been established with most of the small outlying villages. However, many of these villages have only one telephone serving the entire community. Local telephone exchanges have been established in only about one-fourth of these villages.

The administration of the trial courts is divided into four judicial districts. The judicial districts serve as regional units for administration and define boundaries for purposes of venue and judicial retention elections. In 1974 the supreme court established two separate judicial service areas for the Bethel and Barrow areas. These service areas were made up of portions of the Second and Fourth Districts. Now, with the appointment of superior court judges in Bethel and Barrow, these service areas are no longer necessary.

Each judicial district is administered by a presiding judge, and all districts have an area court administrator. Administration of the first judicial district is located in Juneau. The second judicial district, which includes the Nome, Barrow, and Kotzebue courts, receives its administrative


· Magistrate Only
• Resident district court judge(s)
* Resident superior court judge(s)
2nd Judicial District
3rd Judicial District
4th Judicial District
1st Judicial District
Barrow
Point Hope
Kotzebue
Kiana
Noorvik
Shungnak
Selawik
Ft. Yukon
Gambell
Savoonga
Nome
Galena
Fairbanks
Nenana
Delta Junction
Unalakleet
Healy
Tok
Emmonak
Mt. Village
St. Mary's
McGrath
Hooper Bay
Aniak
Glennallen
Mekoryuk
Tununak
Bethel
Anchorage
Palmer
Valdez
Kenai
Cordova
Skagway
Homer
Haines
Whittier
Yakutat
Juneau
Dillingham
Seward
St. Paul Island
Seldovia
Hoonah
Kake
Naknek
Wrangell
Kodiak
Sitka
Petersburg
Craig
Cold Bay
Sand Point
Ketchikan
Unalaska

ALASKA COURT LOCATIONS

1/83

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

support from Anchorage, as does Bethel. Anchorage is the largest court in the state and serves as headquarters for the third judicial district. Fairbanks is the administrative center for the fourth judicial district.

Food Cache, Unalakleet

Effective January 1, 1982, Chief Justice Edmond W. Burke named three new presiding judges and reappointed the fourth. He selected Superior Court Judge Thomas Schulz as the presiding judge in the first judicial district, Superior Court Judge Mark Rowland as presiding judge in the third judicial district and Superior Court Judge Gerald VanHoomissen as the presiding judge in the fourth judicial district. Superior Court Judge Charles Tunley was reappointed to serve as the presiding judge for the second judicial district.

The presiding judge serves for a term of one year and he is eligible to succeed himself. In addition to his regular judicial duties, the presiding judge supervises the assignment of cases pending in that judicial district and appoints the magistrates located within his judicial district. The presiding judge also supervises the administrative actions of judges and court personnel in his district and reviews and recommends budgets necessary to insure sound court operations.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Administration

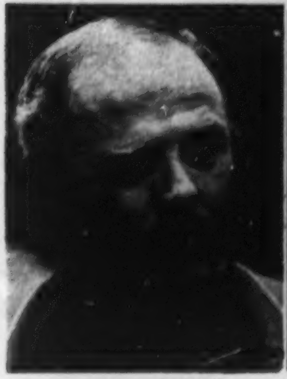
The first judicial district underwent a change in presiding judge as well as area court administrator during 1982. Following the retirement of former Presiding Judge Thomas Stewart, Judge Thomas E. Schulz was appointed presiding judge of the first judicial district. Also during 1982, former Area Court Administrator Patrick Aloia departed state government and was replaced by Kristen Carlisle, former clerk of trial courts in Ketchikan. The area court administrator's office was transferred from Juneau to Ketchikan, where Judge Schulz resides.

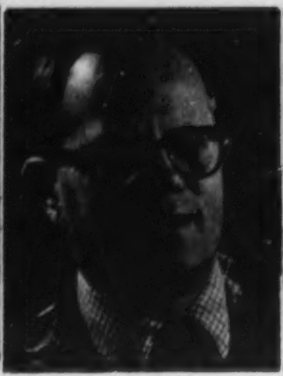
In September 1982, a training session for in-court clerks in the first district was held in Juneau. Juneau's clerk of court, Barbara Pitman, organized and talked at the three-day session, with assistance from electronic engineering technician, Dale Chavie, and magistrate training assistant, Bob Martin. The main topics included the taking of log notes and a demonstration of tape recorder operation, maintenance and trouble-shooting.

In October 1982, the first district judges and clerks of court all met in a combined session to discuss mutual problems and concerns. This was a valuable session and plans for future meetings of a similiar nature are underway.

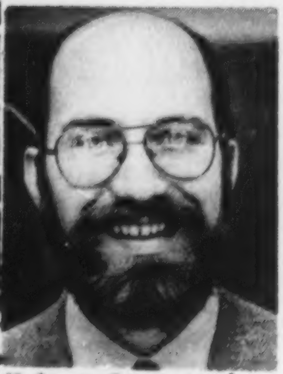
The district-wide goals for 1983 include: improved case management towards the ultimate goal of substantially reducing court delay; implementation of a consolidated

Superior Court Judges


Thomas E. Schulz
Ketchikan


Duane Craske
Sitka

Rodger Peques
Juneau


Walter Carpeneti
Juneau

District Court Judges

H. C. Keene, Jr.
Ketchikan

Gerald O. Williams
Juneau

Robin Taylor
Wrangell

calendaring system in Juneau; automation of court records and calendaring at Ketchikan, Juneau and Sitka; and improvements in the jury selection process.

Judicial Changes

Henry C. Keene, Jr. was appointed to the newly established superior court bench in Wrangell/Petersburg by Governor Jay Hammond on November 12, 1982. Judge Keene leaves Ketchikan after nearly 16 years as a district court judge in that location. By maintaining a superior court in Wrangell/Petersburg, the court system is anticipating improved judicial service to that area.

Juneau

Barbara Pitman, former Seldovia magistrate and clerk of court in Kenai, was selected as the new clerk of court in Juneau and assumed her duties on June 1, 1982. She replaced Barbara Howe, who retired in May of 1982 after 14 years of service to the court system in Juneau. Juneau is anticipating automation of their records in early 1983.

Ketchikan

Ketchikan became the third court in the state to go to automated records and calendaring system in October

1982. It is anticipated that this system will reduce staff time and increase the availability of accurate statistics.

Sitka

Superior Court Judge Duane Craske continued to be an active training judge in 1982. Several minor improvements were made to the court facility and more will hopefully be accomplished in the coming year. Sitka is also expecting to automate its court records in early 1983.

Wrangell/Petersburg

Both of these locations witnessed an increased civil load in 1982, partly as a result of being made locations to accept superior court filings in July of 1982. With a superior court judge permanently stationed in this area, it is expected that there will be a continuing increase in judicial activity.

Magistrates

The first judicial district continued its efforts to upgrade the facilities, staffing and training of the magistrates in the district as caseload and space needs increased. The first district has enjoyed a low rate of turnover among its magistrates and the existing 12 magistrates form a veteran group with a great deal of combined experience.

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Administration

The second judicial district administratively is treated as a confederation of four separate trial courts (Barrow, Bethel, Kotzebue, and Nome) under the presiding judgeship of Judge Tunley, with administrative assistance provided by the administrative office in Anchorage through the position of the court specialist. During the past year the district has devoted a significant amount of time to the administrative areas of organization, personnel, equipment, and facilities.

Superior Court Judges

Charles R. Tunley
Nome

Paul Jones
Kotzebue

Christopher Cooke
Bethel

In the area of organization, the district has been able to establish all superior court judges as administrative judges for purposes of managing the judicial and administrative aspects of their own courts. They have also been able to establish magistrate IV positions for all superior court locations and to begin planning for policies/procedural guidelines which will be finalized during the coming year.

In the area of personnel, a project has commenced to assure compatibility of job responsibilities and to eliminate disparities among the four court locations. Also, an ongoing effort to assure proper staffing and classification levels will continue for at least another year.

In the area of equipment, most equipment was refurbished or replaced in FY 82 to bring it up to operating standards. During 1983, the mini-computer system for calendaring and case record keeping will be implemented.

In the area of facilities, there were refurbishment projects in the Kotzebue and Nome courthouses. It is anticipated that during 1983 major remodeling will take place in the Barrow courthouse.

Barrow

Judge Michael Jeffery assumed his duties in Barrow during December 1982. The establishment of a superior court in Barrow will provide the North Slope with resident judicial services.

Also, during 1982, Jeanne Cross was appointed magistrate for the Barrow court and Linda Kennedy was appointed clerk of court. The major problems confronting this location are an increasing caseload, inadequate facilities, a need for more staff, and a need to train the present staff in the handling of superior court cases.

Bethel

To assist Judge Christopher Cooke in handling an increasing caseload, Dale Curda was elevated to the position of magistrate IV. The major problems facing this court are an increasing caseload, limited space and a need for additional staff. It is anticipated that the mini-computer calendaring/case management system will be installed in Bethel during the summer of 1983.

Selawik Magistrate Rena Ballot

Kotzebue

After having undergone several changes, the Kotzebue court under the direction of Judge Paul Jones has made many improvements in the areas of personnel, jury management, facilities and overall operations. To assist in handling an increasing caseload, Robert Sinkey was appointed as magistrate, handling district court level cases. May Pannick has been appointed clerk of court, replacing Karen Mulluck. There does not appear to be any major problems confronting this court. Continuous effort will be made to assure that the staffing levels keep pace with the increasing case filings. It is anticipated that the mini-computer calendaring/case management system will be installed during the spring of 1983.

Nome

The Nome court is the central administrative location for the second judicial district, with Judge Charles Tunley serving as presiding judge. H. Conner Thomas has been appointed as magistrate. Nome will be the first location in the second judicial district for implementation of the automated calendaring/case management system.

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judicial Changes

District Court Judge Beverly Cutler was appointed to the newly created superior court judgeship in Palmer. She was sworn in on November 23, 1982.

Superior Court Judges

Ralph E. Moody
Anchorage

S. J. Buckalew
Anchorage

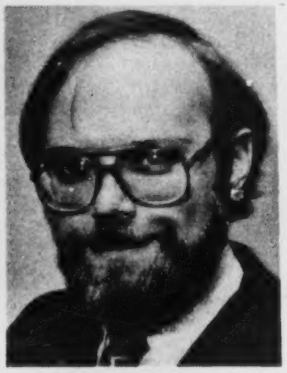
Victor Carlson
Anchorage

Karl Johnstone
Anchorage

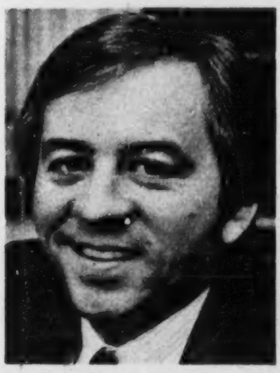
J. Justin Ripley
Anchorage

Mark Rowland
Anchorage

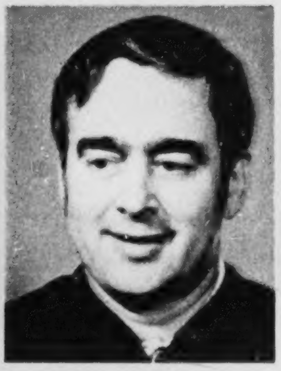
Milton Souter
Anchorage



Doug Serdahely
Anchorage



Brian Shortell
Anchorage

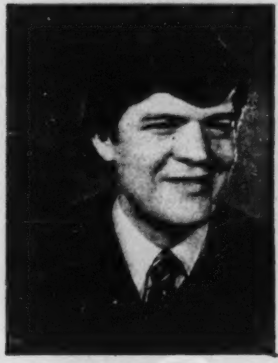


Daniel Moore
Anchorage

Charles Cranston
Kenai

Roy Madsen
Kodiak

District Court Judges



Glen Anderson
Anchorage

Elaine Andrews
Anchorage

Joseph Brewer
Anchorage

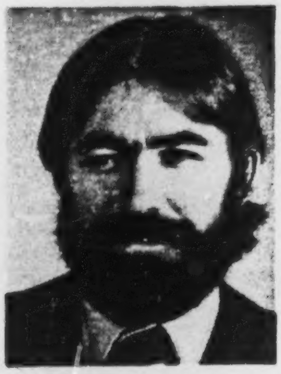
Beverly Cutler
Anchorage

John Mason
Anchorage

Warren Tucker
Anchorage

Virgil Vochoska
Anchorage

James Hornaday
Homer



John Bosshard III
Valdez

District Court Judges Joseph Brewer and Virgil Vochoska were not retained by the voters at the November 2, 1982 election and will be relieved of their duties on February 1, 1983.

Anchorage District Court

During FY 82 there was a major reorganization of the district court clerical functions. The district court calendaring function was separated from superior court calendaring and moved adjacent to the district court judges so that personnel would be in close proximity to the courtrooms. Two word processing computers were purchased to facilitate the calendaring function. Also, additional personnel were added to the area. A supervisory position was created for the calendaring division, as was a legal technician position for district court.

"Day before" trial call was established for criminal trials in order to make more efficient use of jurors, judicial time and clerical time. Civil cases are now assigned to individual judges at the time the case becomes at issue.

Judge Elaine Andrews was named the assistant presiding judge for the district court by Presiding Judge Mark Rowland. He delegated to her the authority to make calendaring, administrative and other necessary decisions for a smooth operation of the district court.

Anchorage District Court Judge Andrews explains her duties to Chugiak High School Senior Debbie Ribelin during Youth in Government Day in May.

Anchorage Trial Courts

Superior Court Judge Mark Rowland was appointed presiding judge for the third district effective January 1, 1982. Judge Rowland appointed Judge Ralph E. Moody as the lead judge in the criminal division of judges. Frances Stevens, custody investigator with the court system for many years, retired. His position was filled by his assistant, Ardis Cry. JoAnn Mingo resigned as supervisor of the traffic division and was replaced by Jackie Allen, who had been supervisor of the records division. Jackie Allen was replaced by Jo Hall, who had been legal technician on the staff of the clerk. The Anchorage trial courts were hit quite heavily in 1982 by the legislation establishing the office of public guardian and indirectly by the permanent fund legislation. The Anchorage public guardian office has approximately 50 wards and conservatees and it anticipates an additional 110 new cases during 1983. In most of these cases the public guardian office will be appointed.

In July of 1982, the two employees in the vital statistics department appeared as usual for work to find a long line of people surrounding the door to their office. From that day until October 31, lines of parents of minor children formed outside the office waiting to obtain certified copies of birth certificates to collect the $1,000 permanent fund payments. From July 15 through October 31, 1982, 43,365 certified copies of birth certificates were processed to the general public.

Facilities

Extensive remodeling took place in several courts in the third district during 1982. Additional space was acquired and remodeling completed in Kenai, Kodiak, Homer and Palmer. In Anchorage, the major remodeling project was completed, which included creation of a grand jury hearing room and an assembly room in the district court building, several new courtrooms in the superior court building, a new office for small claims in the space vacated by the traffic division.

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Administration

There were no major administrative changes in the fourth district during 1982.

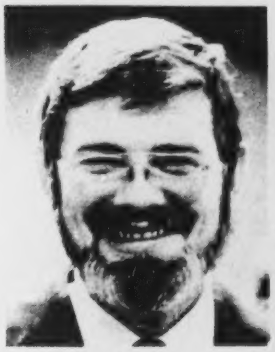
Judicial Changes

Judge Gerald J. VanHoomissen was appointed by Chief Justice Burke as presiding judge of the fourth judicial district in January 1982, replacing Judge James R. Blair, who had been presiding judge for the previous three years. Judge VanHoomissen had previously served as presiding judge of the fourth judicial district from 1974 to 1978.

Magistrates

Under the direction of Presiding Judge VanHoomissen, District Court Judge Steven Cline (who also functions as the magistrate training judge) and Mac Gibson, area court administrator, a training conference was held for the fourth judicial district magistrates from October 19 through October 22 at Fairbanks. All the fourth district magistrates attended the conference, which included training programs in the handling of inquests, probate matters, procedures in criminal and civil matters, uniform sentencing in fish and game matters and a number of other issues. The conference also gave the attendees a chance to discuss informally other problems

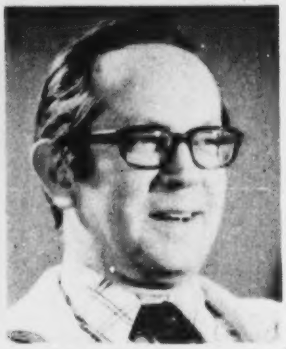
Superior Court Judges



James Blair
Fairbanks

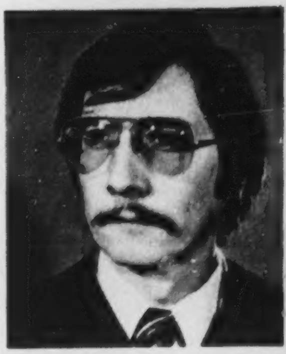
Jay Hodges
Fairbanks

Warren Taylor
Fairbanks



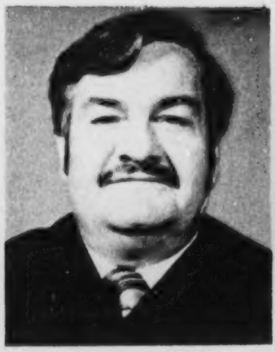
Gerald VanHoomissen
Fairbanks

District Court Judges



Stephen Cline
Fairbanks

Hugh Connelly
Fairbanks



H. E. Crutchfield
Fairbanks

Jane Kauvar
Fairbanks

and other points of interest which relate to the bush areas on a day to day basis.

Barrow

During 1982, the fourth district provided considerable judicial and administrative support for the Barrow court. Wayne W. Wolfe, clerk of the Fairbanks trial courts, and members of his staff in both the criminal and civil sections have continued to visit Barrow to monitor personnel performance and assist in handling the backload of paperwork accompanying the continuing growth of cases in this court. With the creation of the resident superior court judge, and a dissolution of the Barrow service area, the fourth district will no longer be providing administrative support services to Barrow.

Galena

James A. Jackson, formerly a physician's assistant in Galena, was appointed by Presiding Judge VanHoomissen on June 28, 1982 as a magistrate at Galena. He filled the vacancy created by the death of the former magistrate, Louis Mass, Jr.

McGrath

The fourth judicial district has assumed responsibility for the magistrate court at McGrath, which has been serviced in the past several years by the Palmer magistrate. The magistrate duties at McGrath will be handled by Magistrate James Jackson of Galena, who intends to transact court business at McGrath once each month until such time as more frequent visits may be required.

Bethel

The Fairbanks superior court will be providing coverage for judicial disqualifications in Bethel as they occur, and the Bethel superior court judge will rotate to Fairbanks when coverage by Fairbanks judges is necessary in Bethel. This assistance will begin in 1983.

TRIAL COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY - FY 82

The Alaska trial courts, consisting of the superior and district courts, have jurisdiction over all civil, criminal and children's matters filed in the State of Alaska (excluding cases exclusively within the ambit of the federal courts). In fiscal year 1982 the superior courts experienced a significant increase in workload. The district courts experienced an increase in the number of non-traffic cases handled. Routine traffic citation workload in the district court decreased by 20% statewide. This decrease was caused primarily by the establishment of violations bureaus by several cities, which relieved the court system from duties of processing routine parking tickets in these cities.

FY 82 Caseload - Trial Courts

Superior court filings increased 23% from FY 81 levels. District court non-traffic case filings increased by 8%. Statistically, this increase in district court non-traffic cases was masked by the 20% decline in the number of traffic citations processed in the district courts. When the traffic citation decline is included, overall trial court filings decreased 8% from FY 81 levels and trial court dispositions decreased by 12%.

Non-traffic cases require several times the judicial and clerical work per case that is required to process a traffic citation. With significant increases in non-traffic case filings during FY 82, coupled with a 20% decrease in traffic citation

TABLE I
ALASKA TRIAL COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 82
7/1/81 - 6/30/82

Location	Superior Court Filings	District Court Filings*	Total Filings*	% of State Total	Total Dispositions	Ratio Dispositions to Filings
Anchorage	10,552	59,794	70,346	49.9%	62,950	89%
Barrow	(*)186	612	798	.6%	694	87%
Bethel	380	1,335	1,715	1.2%	1,480	86%
Cordova	-	698	698	.5%	643	92%
Dillingham	-	500	500	.4%	442	88%
Fairbanks	2,864	19,001	21,865	15.5%	20,482	94%
Glennallen	-	899	899	.6%	803	89%
Homer	-	2,354	2,354	1.7%	2,150	91%
Juneau	932	8,155	9,087	6.4%	8,726	96%
Kenai	758	5,998	6,756	4.8%	6,265	93%
Ketchikan	749	3,175	3,924	2.8%	3,696	94%
Kodiak	346	3,034	3,380	2.4%	3,201	95%
Kotzebue	190	804	994	.7%	892	90%
Nome	318	895	1,213	.9%	1,106	91%
Palmer	(*)-	5,571	5,571	3.9%	323	90%
Petersburg	-	319	319	.2%	4,991	101%
Seward	-	1,884	1,884	1.3%	1,807	96%
Sitka	290	2,008	2,298	1.6%	2,117	92%
Tok	-	804	804	.6%	802	100%
Unalaska	-	517	517	.4%	497	96%
Valdez	-	997	997	.7%	958	96%
Wrangell	(*)-	740	740	.5%	684	92%
Subtotal	17,565	120,094	137,659	97.6%	125,709	91%
Low Volume Courts	-	3,423	3,423	2.4%	3,023	88%
TOTAL	17,565	123,517	141,082	100.0%	128,732	91%

*Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.
(*)New superior court judgeships were created in Barrow, Palmer, and Wrangell during FY 83.

filings, the trial courts find themselves in the paradoxical situation of facing a significantly increased workload while simultaneously reporting an overall 8% decrease in trial court filings.

Table I provides summary caseload statistics for each superior and higher volume district court location for fiscal year 1982.

SUPERIOR COURT

Jurisdication

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction, with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. Appeals to the superior court from final judgments of the district court are a matter of right. The superior court has exclusive jurisdiction in all domestic relations matters, children's proceedings, probate, guardianship and civil commitments.

FY 82 Caseload - Superior Courts

Superior court case filings increased 23% from FY 81. Total dispositions increased by 8%. These figures indicate that existing judicial resources were unable to keep pace with the significant increase in superior court workload. During FY 83, three additional superior court judgeships (in Barrow, Palmer and Wrangell) were created by the legislature and filled by the governor. It remains to be seen if these additional judicial positions will be sufficient to allow the state's superior courts to keep pace with their increasing workload.

Table II provides summary caseload statistics for each superior court location in fiscal year 1982.

Table III provides a historical perspective on total superior court filings and dispositions. Since 1978, total filings have increased by 27% with the largest increase (23%) coming in the past year. During the same period, total dispositions have increased by 17%. Table IV provides an analysis of the composition of cases filed in superior courts during FY 82. The largest category of superior court cases is domestic relations which accounted for 47% of total case filings. Within the general category of domestic relations, domestic violence cases stand out as a clear example of the impact of recent legislation on the workload of the court system.

Domestic violence cases make up 12% of the domestic relations caseload and approximately 6% of the overall superior court workload. Until late 1980 domestic violence cases did not exist. Likewise, within the overall category of probate matters, guardianship and sanity matters have roughly doubled as a percentage of probate matters (to 31%) in the last year and now represent approximately 11% of the superior court workload. Sanity and guardianship filings increased 187% and 322% respectively in the last year. Recently enacted legislation is directly responsible for this increase in case activity.

Reciprocal support cases have doubled as a percentage of all domestic relations cases and account for 14% of the total superior court workload.

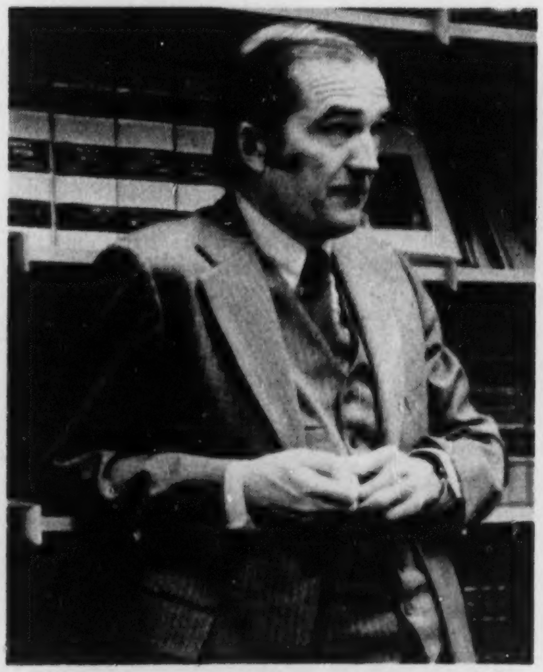
Filings of felony cases in superior courts increased 10% in FY 82. This increase was due almost entirely to increased filings of felony cases where the primary charge involved violence or drugs. Filings of felony cases involving violence increased 20% over FY 82 and filings of felony cases involving drugs increased by 31%. Violence and drug felonies made up 53% of the superior court felony workload whereas in prior years property related offenses were always over half of the felony caseload.

Table V provides a historical perspective on the general composition of the cases filed in superior courts since 1978 based on the major case categories of civil, criminal and children's matters. Since 1977, total civil case filings have increased by 28%, children's matters have decreased by 2% and criminal case filings have increased by 44%.

TABLE II
SUPERIOR COURTS*
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 82
7/1/81 - 6/30/82

Court	Filings	Dispositions	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings	Percent Change in Filings '79
Anchorage	10,552	8,888	84%	+37
Barrow	186	130	70%	+12
Bethel	380	335	88%	- 5
Fairbanks	2,864	2,284	80%	+14
Juneau	932	755	81%	+10
Kenai	758	661	87%	+9
Ketchikan	749	625	83%	+ 8
Kodiak	346	307	89%	-15
Kotzebue	190	187	98%	-17
Nome	318	295	93%	-27
Sitka	290	213	73%	- 9
Total	17,565	14,680	84%	+23

*New superior court judgeships were created in Barrow, Palmer and Wrangell during FY 83.



Anchorage Superior Court Judge Victor Carlson

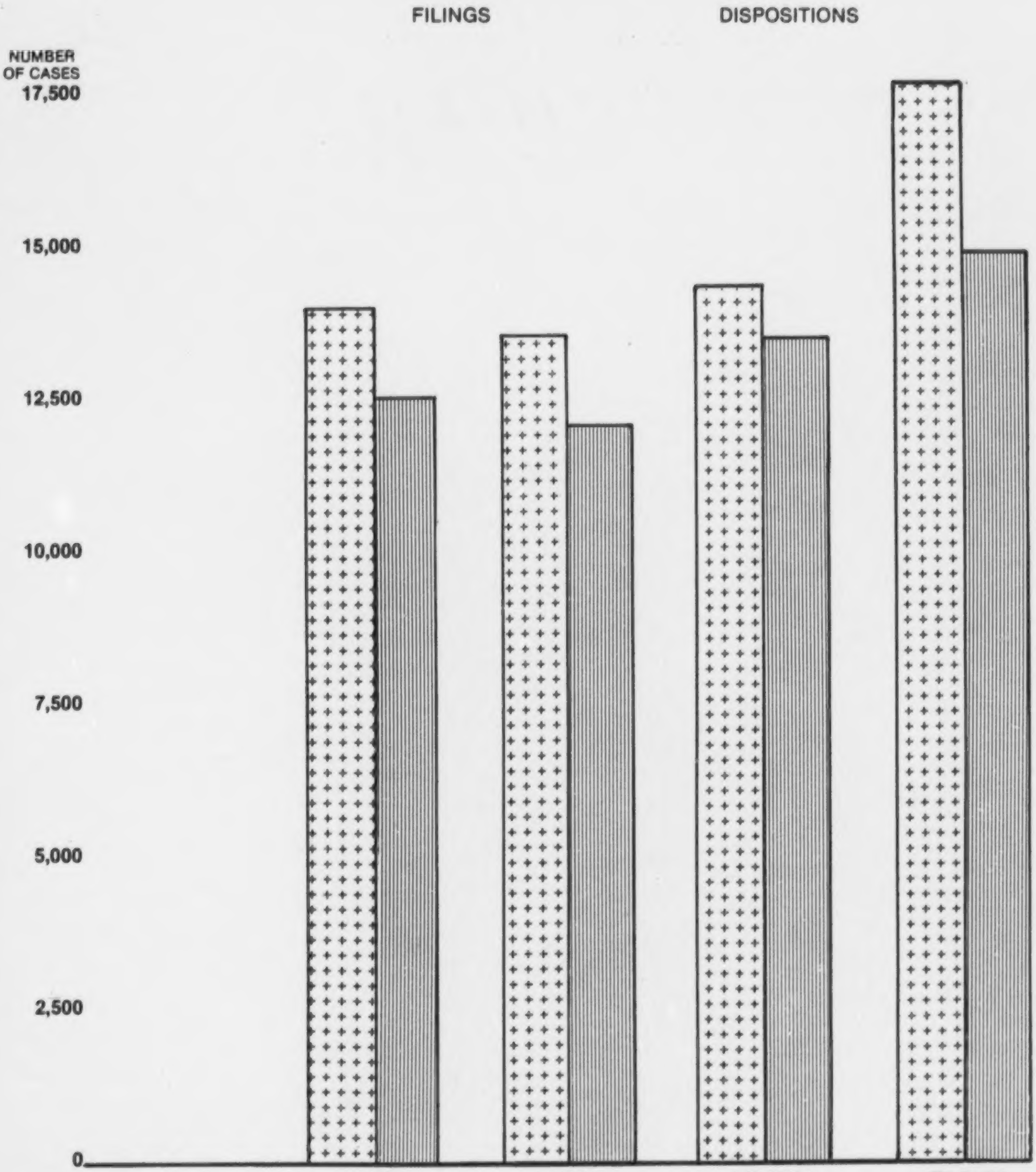
Table VI provides a historical perspective on the detailed composition of cases filed in superior courts since 1978. Domestic relations, probate and felony case filings have increased by 46%, 52% and 69% respectively since 1978.

A comprehensive and detailed set of statistical tables describing the superior court caseload in FY 82 is available in the statistical supplement located at the back of this annual report. Any questions regarding the superior court caseload may be directed to the administrative office of the Alaska Court System.

TABLE III

SUPERIOR COURTS

SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY81/82



	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82
FILINGS	13,856	13,492	14,316	17,565
DISPOSITIONS	12,508	12,078	13,619	14,680

TABLE IV
SUPERIOR COURTS
CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 81/82

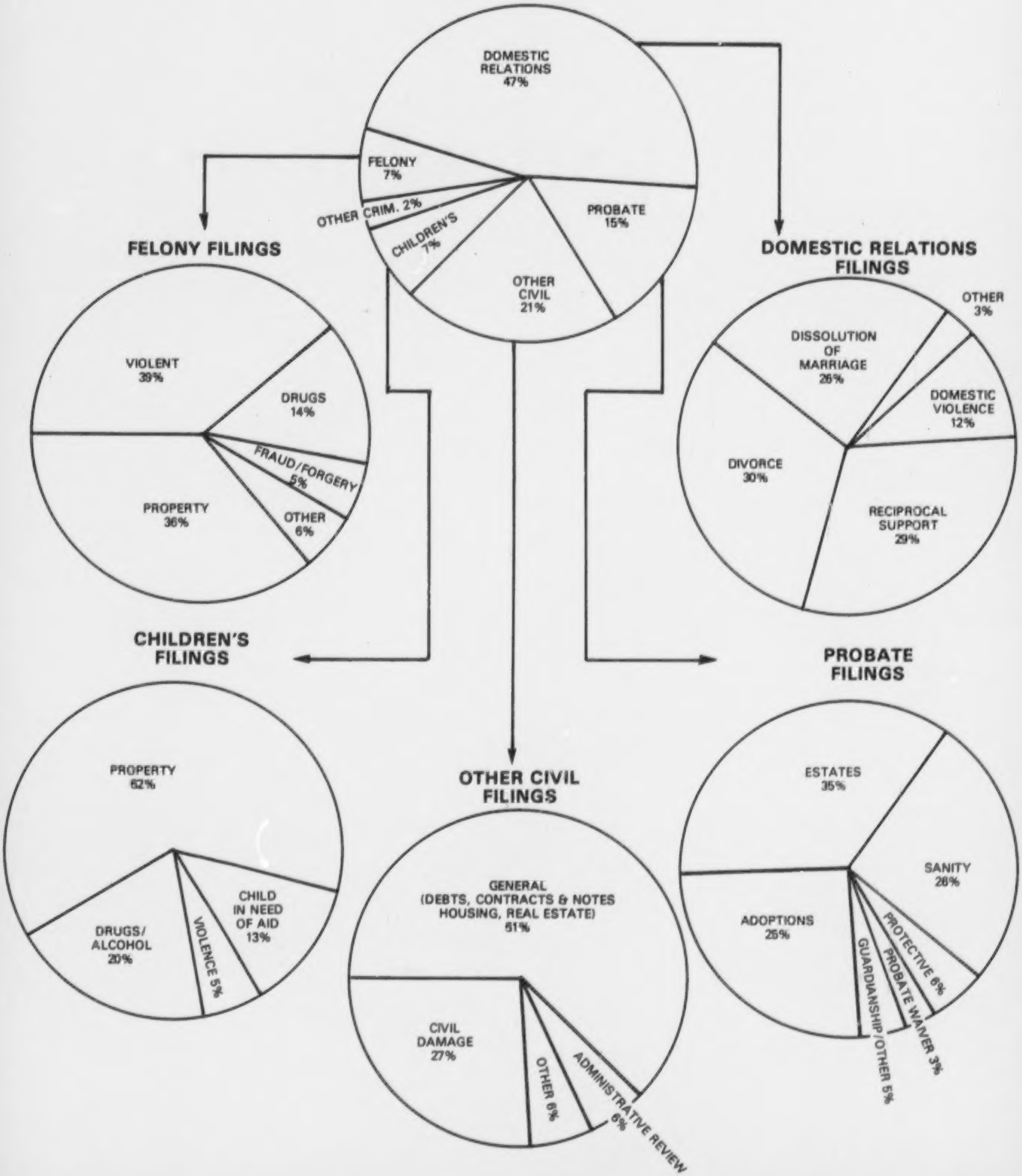
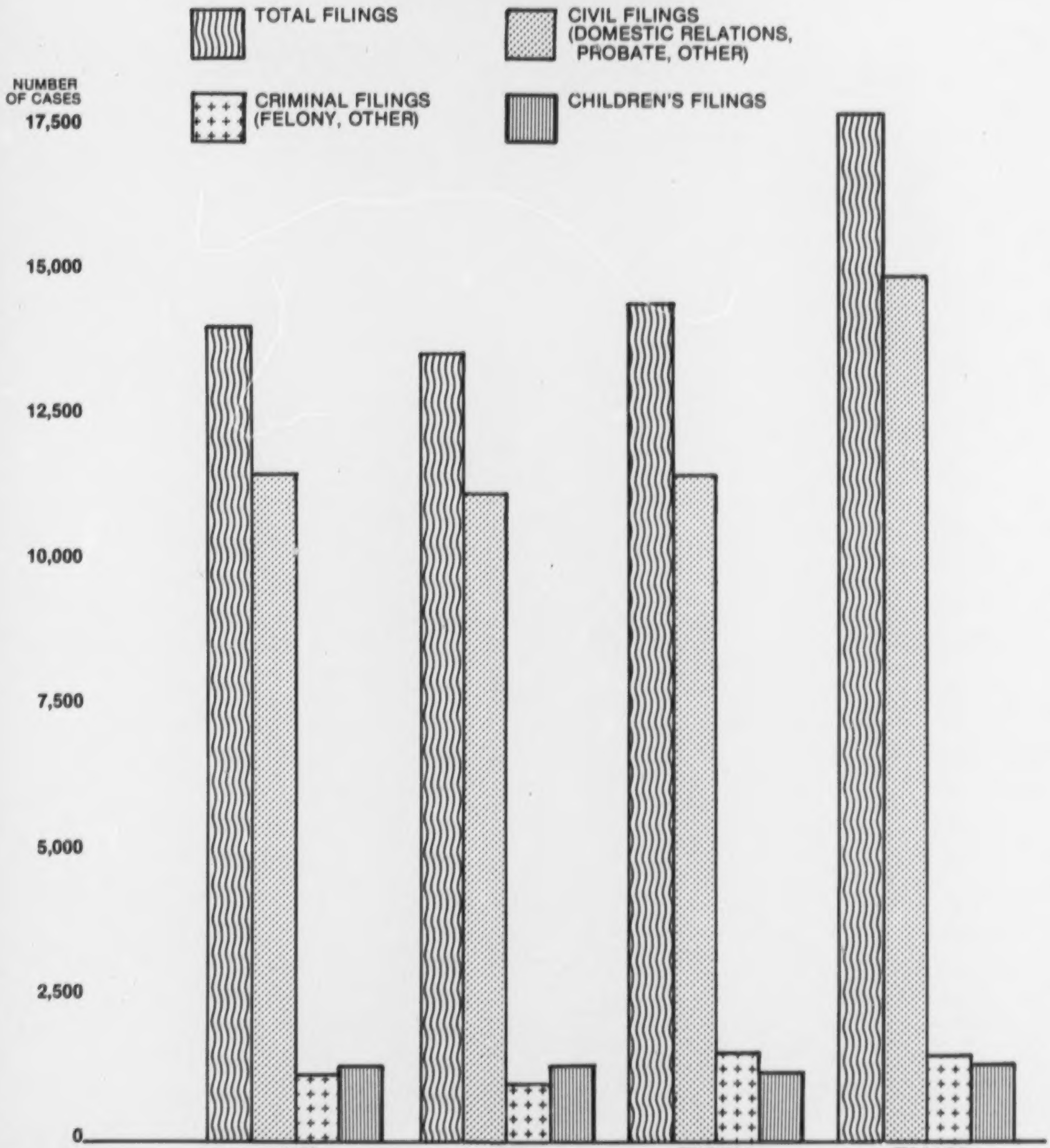


TABLE V

SUPERIOR COURTS

SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
1978 - FY 81/82

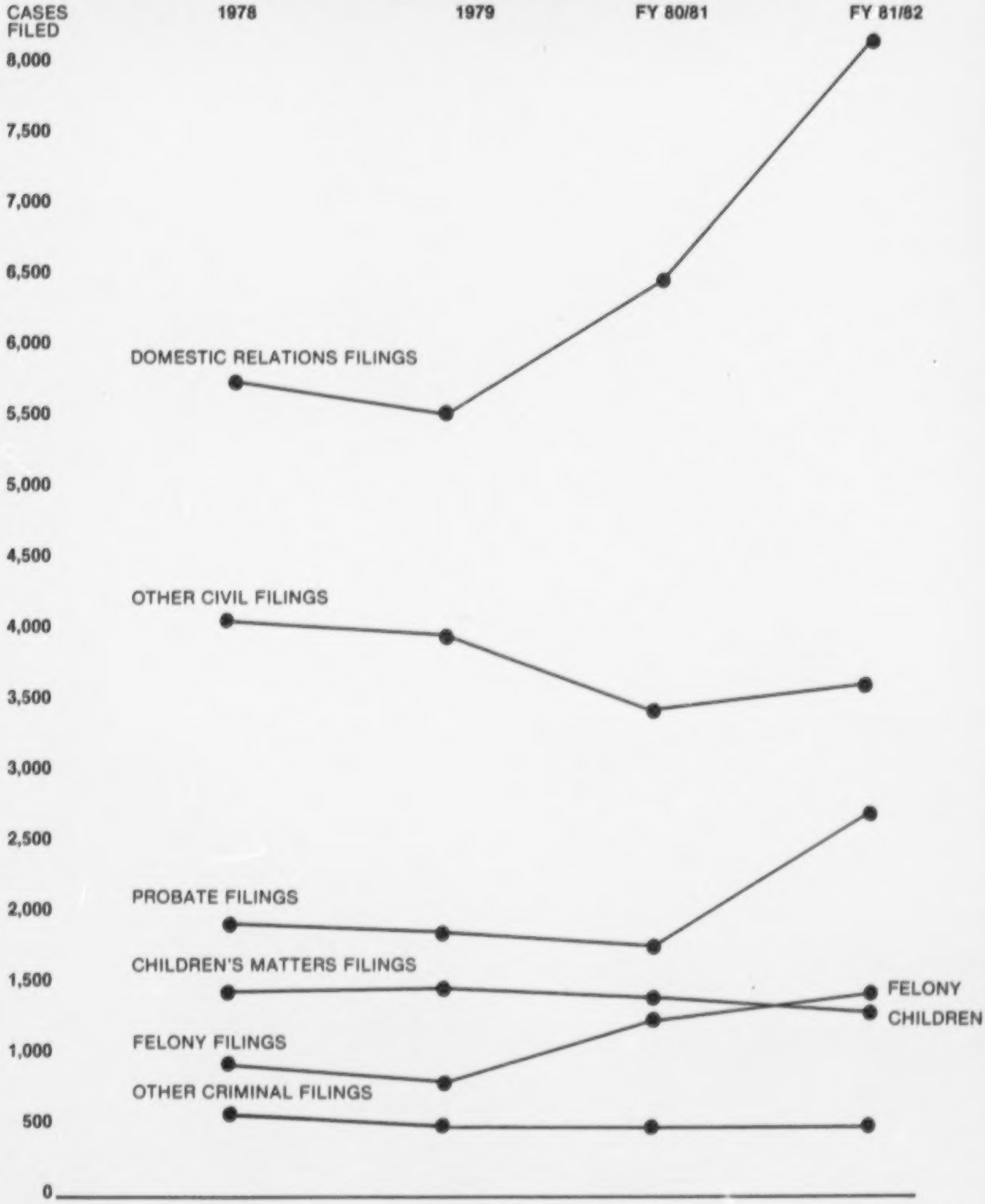


	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82
Civil Filings	11,370	11,066	11,445	14,581
Criminal Filings	1,190	1,074	1,557	1,714
Children's Filings	1,296	1,352	1,314	1,270
Total Filings	13,856	13,492	14,316	17,565

TABLE VI

SUPERIOR COURTS

SUMMARY OF 1978 - FY 81/82 FILINGS BY CASE TYPE



		1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82
Domestic Rel.	:	5,668	5,445	6,429	8,257
Other Civil	:	3,933	3,873	3,346	3,629
Probate	:	1,769	1,748	1,670	2,695
Children's	:	1,296	1,352	1,314	1,270
Felony	:	778	691	1,194	1,317
Other Crim.	:	412	383	363	397
Total Filings	:	13,856	13,492	14,316	17,565

TABLE VII
DISTRICT COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 82
7/1/81 - 6/30/82

Court	Non-Traffic Filings	Traffic Filings*	Total Filings*	Dispositions	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings
Anchorage	18,074	41,720	59,794	54,062	90%
Barrow	609	3	612	564	92%
Bethel	1,102	233	1,335	1,145	86%
Cordova	449	249	698	643	92%
Dillingham	462	38	500	442	88%
Fairbanks	5,766	13,235	19,001	18,198	96%
Glennallen	425	474	899	803	89%
Homer	975	1,379	2,354	2,150	91%
Juneau	3,293	4,862	8,155	7,971	98%
Kenai	1,892	4,106	5,998	5,604	93%
Ketchikan	1,724	1,451	3,175	3,071	97%
Kodiak	1,479	1,555	3,034	2,894	95%
Kotzebue	802	2	804	705	88%
Nome	684	211	895	811	91%
Palmer	2,486	3,085	5,571	4,991	90%
Petersburg	151	168	319	323	101%
Seward	483	1,401	1,884	1,807	96%
Sitka	1,031	977	2,008	1,904	95%
Tok	111	693	804	802	100%
Unalaska	351	166	517	497	96%
Valdez	428	569	997	958	96%
Wrangell	455	285	740	684	92%
Subtotal	43,232	76,862	120,094	111,029	92%
Low Volume Courts	2,205	1,218	3,423	3,023	88%
Total	45,437	78,080	123,517	114,052	92%

*Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

DISTRICT COURT

Jurisdiction

In criminal matters, the district court has jurisdiction over state misdemeanor violations and violations of ordinances of political subdivisions. In civil matters, the district court may hear cases for recovery of money or damages not exceeding $10,000 and for recovery of specific personal property not exceeding $10,000 in value. In motor vehicle tort cases, civil jurisdiction in district court is $15,000.

Magistrate posts have been created in the smaller, generally rural areas of the state. They have also been established in metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and to ease the workload of the district court. In criminal matters, magistrates may give judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty to any state misdemeanor, may try state misdemeanor cases if the defendant waives his right to a district court judge, and may hear municipal ordinance violations without consent of the accused. In formal civil cases, magistrates may award damages up to $1,000 (in small claims cases up to $2,000). Magistrates have emergency authority in children's matters.

FY 82 Caseload - District Court

The district court statistics are maintained in two components - high and low volume courts. There are approximately 20 high volume courts including all district court/magistrate sites located with a superior court. There are approximately 40 magistrates in locations that are identified as lower volume courts.

Because traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until they have reached a final disposition, the number of filings for traffic matters in a year generally understates the court's actual workload. Consequently, wherever filing data is required to assess the overall workload of the courts, traffic disposition data have been substituted for traffic filing data. This is true of all tables and charts in this report.

The statewide district court non-traffic caseload increased 8% from FY 81 levels. Traffic citation filings/dispositions decreased by 20% statewide in FY 82. Non-traffic dispositions increased by 3%. Table VII provides summary caseload statistics for district court locations in fiscal year 1982.

Table VIII provides a historical perspective on total district court filings and dispositions.

Table IX provides an analysis of the composition of the cases filed in district courts during FY 82. The largest category of district court cases remains traffic citations (all vehicular cases excluding drunk driving and some accident related charges) which accounted for 64% of the total caseload. The number of non-traffic case filings (36% of the total caseload) was comprised of approximately 65% criminal cases and 35% civil cases.

Misdemeanor case filings account for approximately 55% of the non-traffic filings or about 20% of the total district court caseload. Of these misdemeanor cases, approximately 30 to 35% involve driving while intoxicated (DWI). DWI cases therefore represent about 7% of the overall district court workload (approximately 9,000 cases).

Table X provides a historical perspective on the composition of the caseload in district courts since 1978 based on the major case categories of traffic and non-traffic matters. Since 1978, non-traffic matters have steadily increased for a total increase of 18%. Traffic matters have fluctuated annually. In FY 82 they decreased 20% from the preceding year.

Table XI provides a historical perspective on the detailed composition of the caseload in district courts since 1978. Changes in filings of specific types of cases have been as follows: small claims and other civil cases (+29%), misdemeanor and other non-felony criminal cases (+12%) and hearings in felony cases (+28%).

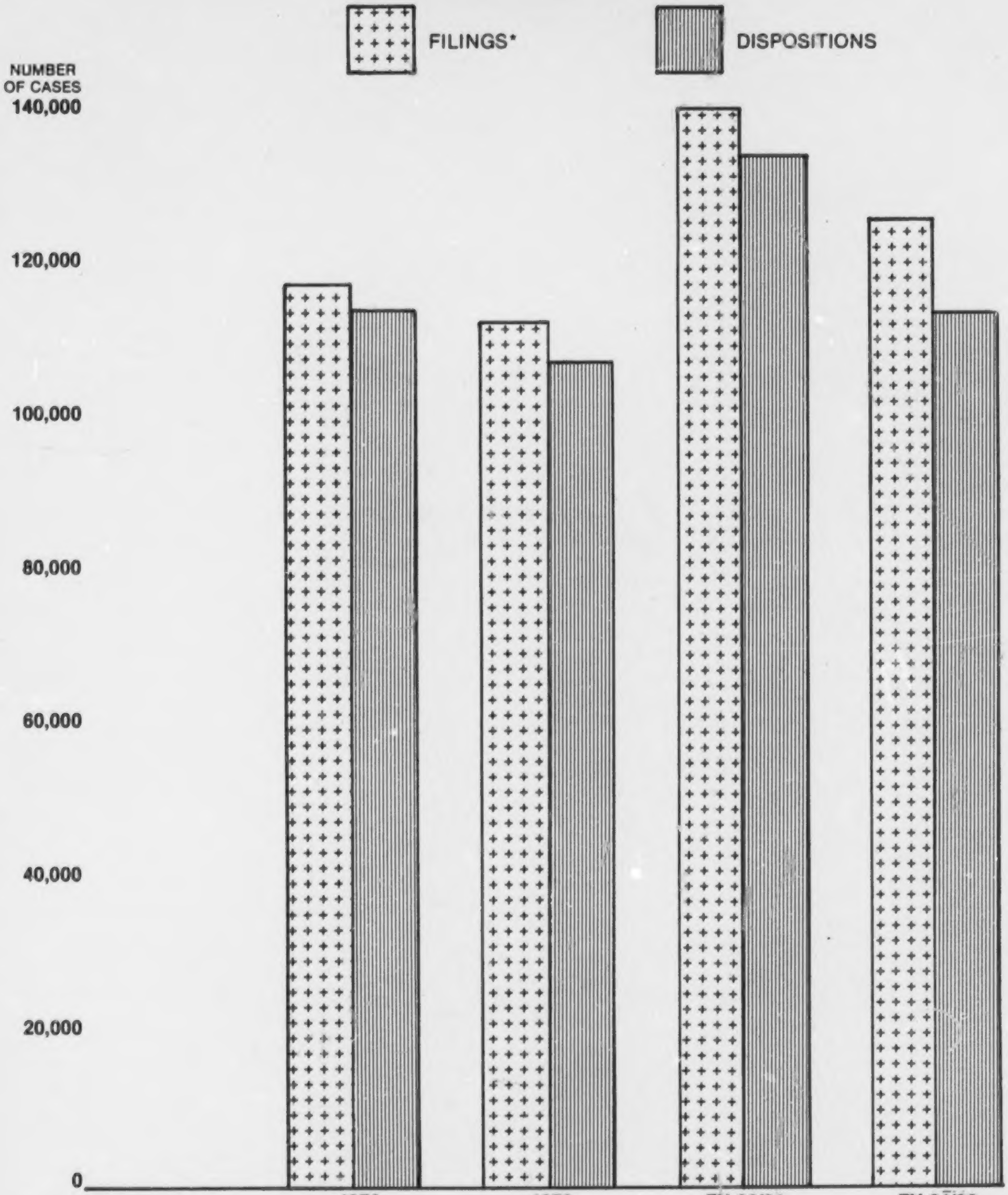
A comprehensive and detailed listing of statistics concerning both high and low volume district courts is available at the back of this annual report. Any questions regarding the district court caseload should be addressed to the administrative office of the Alaska Court System.

TABLE VIII

DISTRICT COURTS

(High and Low Volume)

SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY81/82



	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82
FILINGS	117,048	110,791	139,643	123,517
DISPOSITIONS	114,016	107,232	132,792	114,052

*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than traffic filings. Therefore, traffic case dispositions are used for both filing and disposition data above. For all other case types, filings data were used as indicated.

TABLE IX
DISTRICT COURTS
(High Volume Courts)
CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 81/82

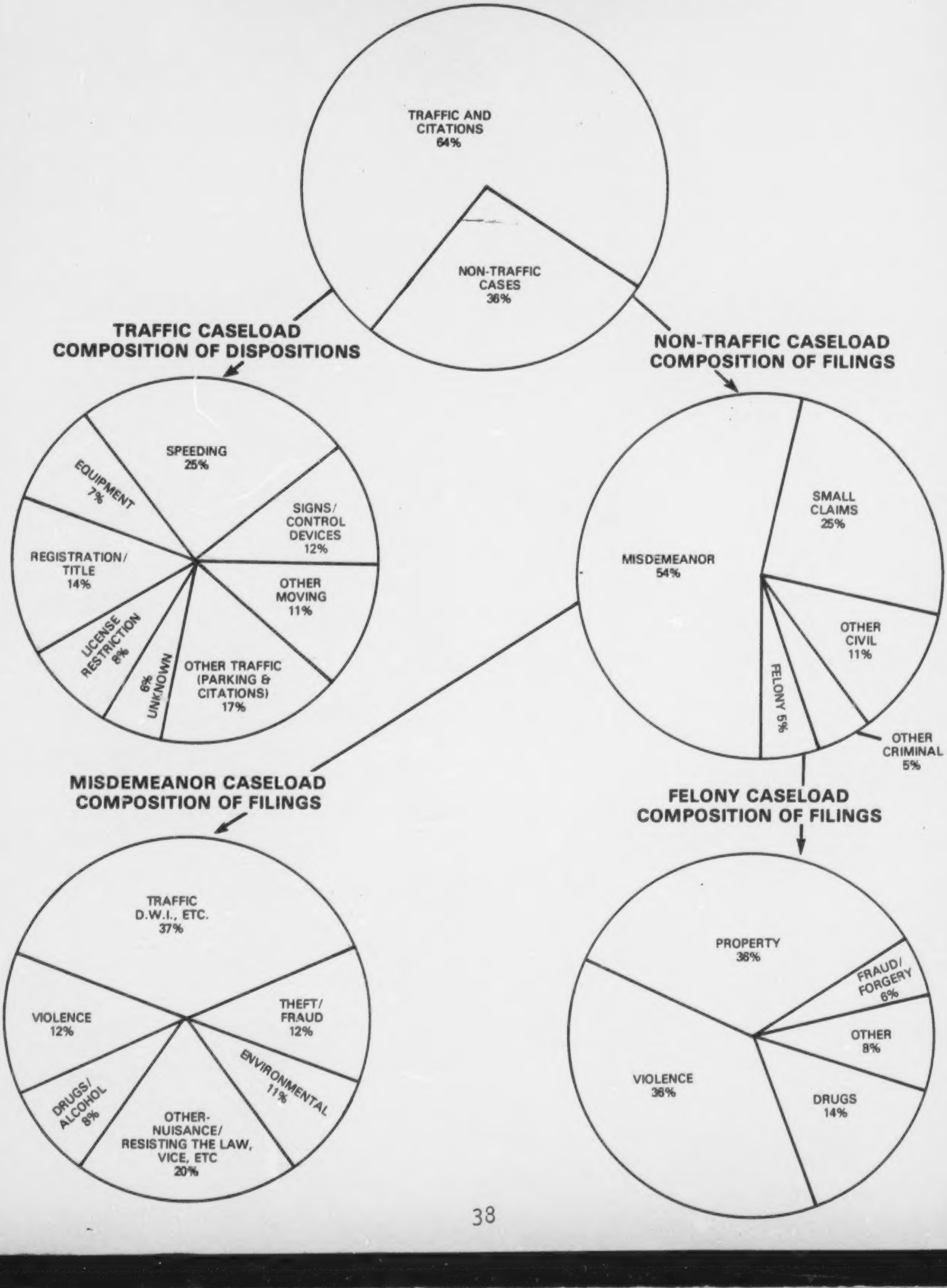
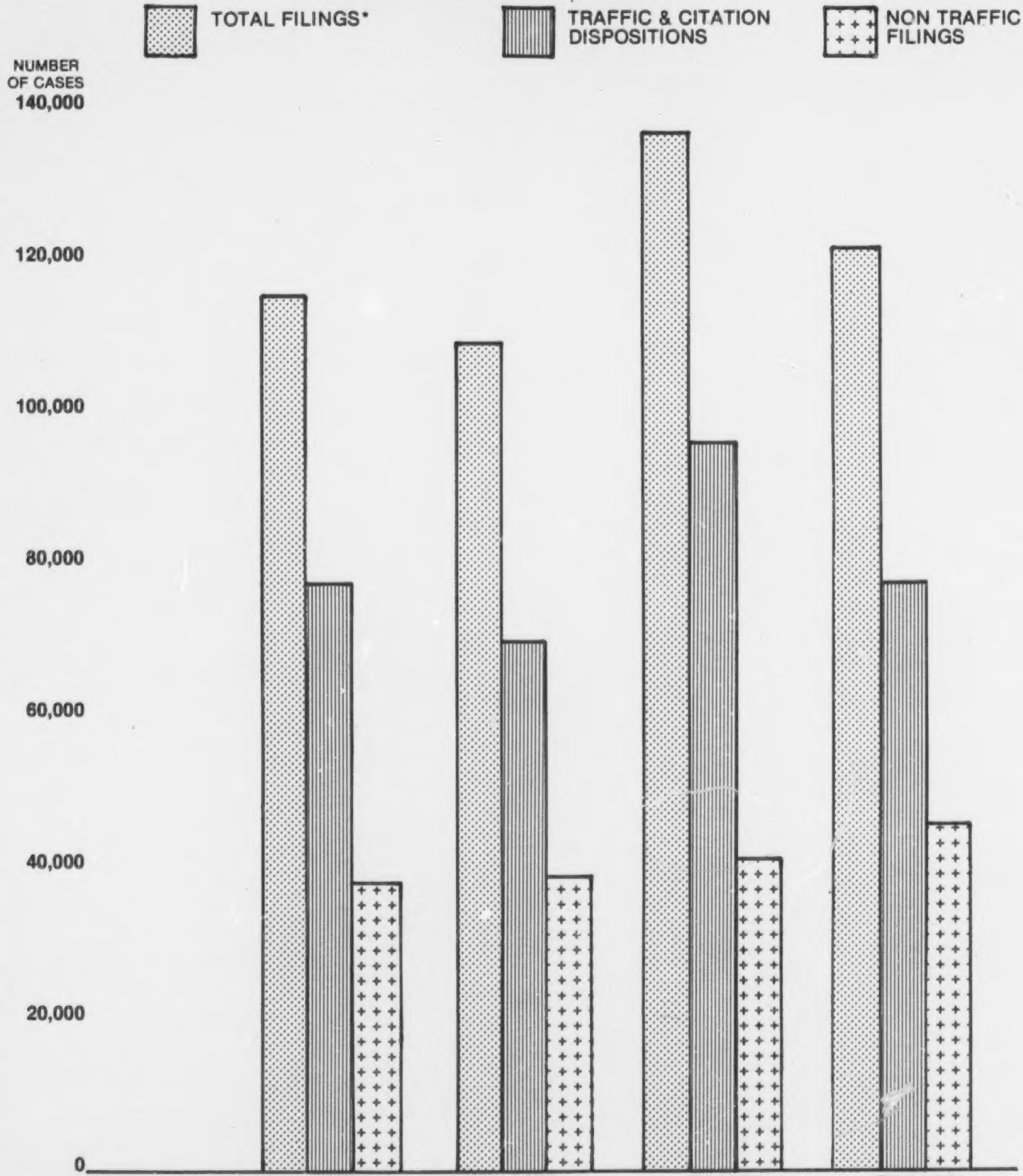


TABLE X

DISTRICT COURTS
(High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
1978 - FY81/82



	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82
Traffic Dispositions*	78,664	71,444	97,705	78,080
Non-Traffic Filings	38,384	39,347	41,938	45,437
Total Caseload	117,048	110,791	139,643	123,517

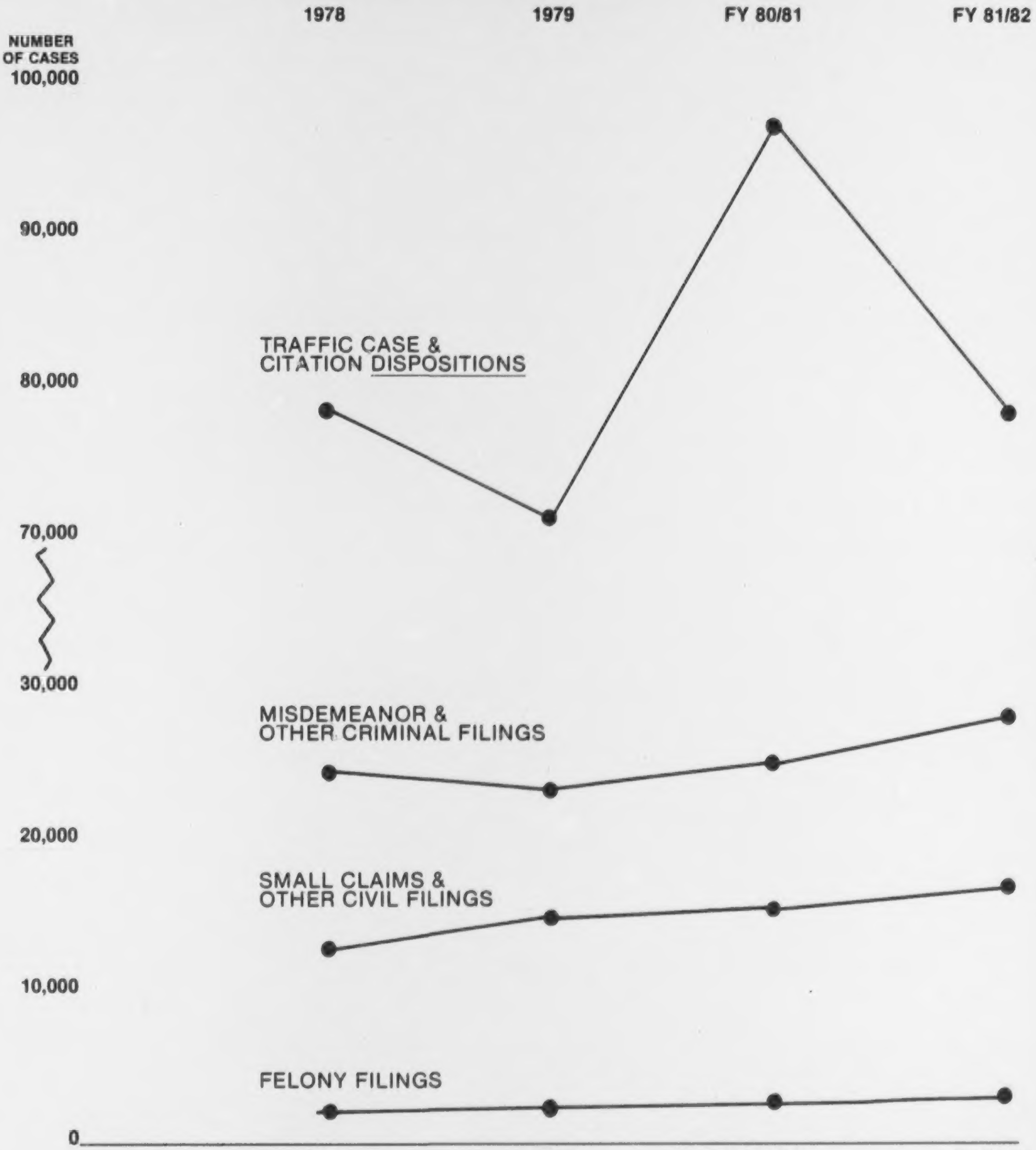
*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than filings. For non-traffic cases, actual filings data were used.

TABLE XI

DISTRICT COURTS

(High and Low Volume)

SUMMARY OF 1978 - FY 81/82 FILINGS BY CASE TYPE



		1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82
Traffic Dispos.	:	78,664	71,444	97,705	78,080
Misdemeanor & Other Criminal Filings	:	24,265	22,821	24,976	27,252
Small Claims & Other Civil Filings	:	12,531	14,852	14,941	16,147
Felony Filings	:	1,588	1,674	2,021	2,038
Total Filings	:	117,048	110,791	139,643	123,517

Left to right: Unalaska Magistrate Vernon Halter; Dillingham Clerk of Court Maureen Wentz; Magistrate Ashman; and Third District Rural Court Training Assistant Charlene Dolphin.

MAGISTRATES
(Not Classified or Partially Exempt Employees)
On June 30, 1982

The following are the magistrates whose salaries are set by supreme court order rather than by the personnel department's classification system:

First District

John Howard, Sr.	Angoon
Elizabeth Dennis	Craig
Carl W. Heinmiller	Haines
Maxine Savland	Hoonah
William L. Cheney	Kake
Richard Redeker	Petersburg
Marilyn Hanson	Sitka
Jean Worley	Skagway
Linda F. Hartshorn	Wrangell
Terry J. Gallagher	Yakutat

Second District

Leonard Apangalook	Gambell
Janet Henry	Kiana
Robert D. Sinkey*	Kotzebue
L. Eugene Williams*	Nome
Myrtle Harvey	Noorvik
Steven T. Lisbourne	Point Hope
Abner Gologergen	Savoonga
Rena Ballot	Selawik
Flora Douglas	Shungnak
Lowell Anagick	Unalakleet

Third District

Karl Heiker	Cold Bay
Mary Wentworth	Cordova
Peter Ashman*	Dillingham
Sheldon Sprecker	Glennallen
Jess H. Nicholas	Kenai
Brigitte McBride	Kodiak
Charles W. Shawback	Naknek
Brian Johnson	Palmer

George Rukovishnikoff	St. Paul Is.
Stephen Hakala	Sand Point
Christine Kashevarof	Seldovia
George Peck	Seward
Vernon Halter	Unalaska
Iola Harris	Whittier

Fourth District

Linda S. Harding	Delta Jct.
Sharon Smyth	Fort Yukon
Jim Jackson*	Galena
Barbara Macfarlane	Healy and Nenana
Iris A. Lathrop	Tok

Bethel Service Area

Craig R. McMahon	Aniak
Dale Curda	Bethel
Dorothy Kameroff	Emmonak
Janet R. Napoleon	Hooper Bay
Alice Smith	Mekoryuk
Marie T. Beans	Mt. Village
Peter M. Andrews, Jr.	St. Mary's
Dick Lincoln	Tununak

Barrow Service Area

Alice Panegio*	Barrow

*Magistrates appointed between January 1 and June 30, 1982.

Locations vacant on June 30, 1982: Buckland, Wales, McGrath, Tanana, Teller, Wainwright, Manley Hot Springs, Pelican, Kasigluk and Rampart.

Only one magistrate who was not a classified or partially exempt employee retired or resigned between January 1 and June 30, 1982. That magistrate was L. Eugene Williams of Nome (appointed January 11, 1982; resigned June 30, 1982).

No new magistrate posts were created between January 1 and June 30, 1982. However, effective April 5, 1982, the Bethel magistrate position was changed from a classified law clerk/magistrate position to a regular magistrate position.

CLASSIFIED AND PARTIALLY EXEMPT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ALSO MAGISTRATES

On June 30, 1982

First District

Mimi Gregg	Haines
Richard N. Siangco	Juneau
Kristen Carlisle	Ketchikan
Kathy Stewart	Petersburg
Charlotte Swanberg	Sitka
Susan Thomsen	Ketchikan
Jerri Feris	Wrangell

Second District

Karen Mulluk	Kotzebue
Geraldine Butcher	Nome
Janet Tobuk	Nome

Third District

Dera Charlene Doris*	Anchorage
LeEllen Baker*	Anchorage
Charlene Dolphin	Anchorage
Paul Crowe	Anchorage
Ronald Wielkopolski	Anchorage
Dolores Wilks	Anchorage
Ethan Windahl	Anchorage
Roy Williams	Anchorage
Goldeen Goodfellow	Anchorage
Mickie Levins	Anchorage
Betty Long	Anchorage
William Harpin	Anchorage
Susan Weltz*	Cordova
Maureen Wentz*	Dillingham
Wava L. Schliesing	Glennallen
Anna Creasey	Homer
Sally Mauldin	Homer
Robin Faas Hodges	Kenai
Vicki Bukovich	Kodiak
Galen Paine*	Kodiak
Patricia Brewer	Palmer
Joanne Graham	Palmer
Janet Moore	Seward
Renee Brown	Unalaska
Tracee Schnell	Valdez
Phyllis Johnson	Valdez

Fourth District

Frederick H. Smith	Fairbanks
Jack Hessin	Fairbanks
Earl (Skip) Slater	Fairbanks
Madeline Kellyhouse	Tok

Barrow Service Area

Jeanne Gilbreath	Barrow

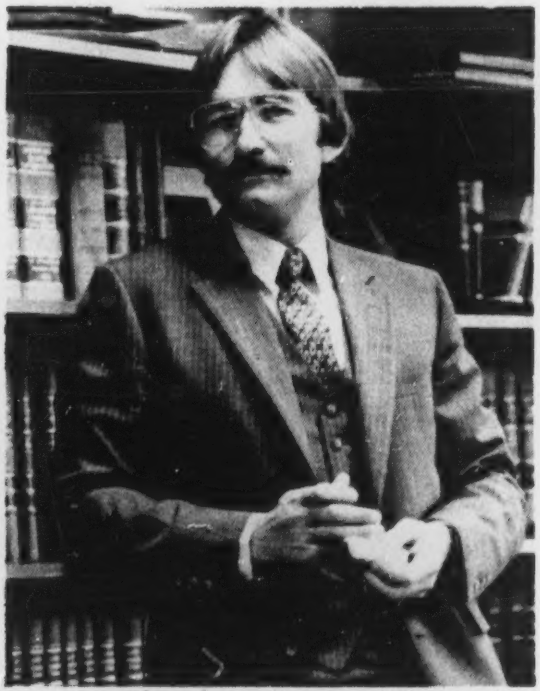
Bethel Service Area

Linda Dahl	Bethel

*Magistrates appointed between January 1 and June 30, 1982.

JUDICIAL TRAINING

All judges and magistrates in the Alaska trial courts receive formal training conducted either within the state or at training sessions sponsored by agencies outside of Alaska. Most outside training is conducted by the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Between January 1 and June 30, 1982, the following judges attended training sessions at the National College: John Bosshard (Valdez) and Jane Kauvar (Fairbanks).



Valdez District Court Judge John Bosshard

Only one magistrate attended a course at the National Judicial College between January 1 and June 30, 1982: Barbara Macfarlane (Healy).

Judicial training in Alaska takes several different forms. There is a statewide judicial conference each year which includes training in specific areas of court procedures or operations; judges and magistrates are eligible for attendance at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada; all magistrates attend at least one magistrate training conference per year; training judges and staff of the administrative office regularly visit with magistrates in their own court locations for on the site training.

The only in-state magistrate training conference conducted between January 1 and June 30, 1982 was the March 22-26 conference for new magistrates. The April 5-9 conference for magistrates from large courts and the April 26-30 statewide clerk's conference had to be cancelled because of the court system's budget shortage in late March.

1982 ALASKA JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

Reducing court delay was the topic of the 1982 Alaska Judicial Conference which was held in Anchorage on May 17 - 19. The program was presented by the staff of National Center for State Courts who investigated this problem during the past five years in courts throughout the country. Western Regional Director Larry Sipes said Alaska was the first state to hold a joint conference on solutions to both the appellate and trial court delay.

The explosion in case filings throughout the nation has made efforts to reduce court delay essential. The rising number of criminal cases and the growth in procedural litigation have placed a heavy burden on the courts to keep business current.

Those who have studied delay comment that it can be reduced without adding more court personnel and without eliminating any due process requirements. The key is eliminating unnecessary waiting time and reducing the number of court appearances necessary to get a trial date.

The National Center staff said that Alaska was among the leading states in the speed of processing civil and criminal cases. However, they said further improvements could be made. The judges in each judicial district are now working with their presiding judge and area court administrator to determine what steps will be taken in each court location. They are cooperating on the project with representatives from the district, municipal and borough attorneys' offices, the public defender and the private bar. Also, Mike Hall, court specialist in the administrative director's office, and Tom Stewart, rules revisor for the supreme court, are assisting staff personnel in each court in their efforts to reduce delay.

Electronic Engeering Technician Dale Chavie demonstrates trouble shooting and recording equipment maintenance to First Judicial District In-Court Clerks. Left to right: Irene Nichols, Juneau; Marie Bishop, Juneau; Shirley Lindquist, Juneau; Linda Carrigan, Craig; Kathy Stewart, Petersburg; Barbara Pitman, Juneau; Jerri Jeris, Wrangell; Janice Reed, Juneau; Delores Cadiente, Juneau; Dale Chavie.

FISCAL AFFAIRS

The Alaska Legislature annually appropriates from the state general fund all funds for operating the Alaska Court System. A statewide budget for all trial courts, the appellate courts and court administration is prepared centrally by the administrative office. Revenues generated by the courts are deposited in the state general fund, except those originating out of municipal ordinance violations, which are returned to the respective municipalities.

The judicial budget has grown steadily for the past several years at a rate of six to twelve percent per year. These increases have been primarily a result of inflation, with a minimal increase for additional resources. Statewide, court caseloads have generally increased at a steady but moderate pace and the court system has been able to absorb most of the additional workload.

The court system operating budget accounts for approximately 2.2% of the total state general fund budget. The actual expenditures incurred by the court system during fiscal year 1980 were $23,487,100; fiscal year 1981, $26,518,200; and fiscal year 1982, $30,009,412.

The budget process for the court system begins with the submission of budget requests by the various trial courts to the administrative office. These requests are reviewed with each district and are modified to fit into an overall state budget plan. Following legislative review and appropriation, the budget is then allocated to the various judicial districts, the appellate courts, and the administrative office. The appropriation covers all costs of the judicial branch in the state including judges' salaries, facility rent, clerks' offices and administrative support.

STATEWIDE BUDGET FOR ALASKA COURT SYSTEM - FISCAL YEAR 1982

Budget Element	FY 82 Expenditures (thousands)	Positions		
		Judges/ Justices	Magistrates	Support Personnel
Appellate Courts	$3,034	8		38
Trial Courts:				
1st District	3,193	7	11	36
2nd District	1,153	2	13	9
3rd District	12,793	21	14	202
4th District	4,899	8	10	67
Bethel Service Area	977	1	7	6
Barrow Service Area	328		1	3
Administration	3,630			55
Total	$30,009	47	56	416

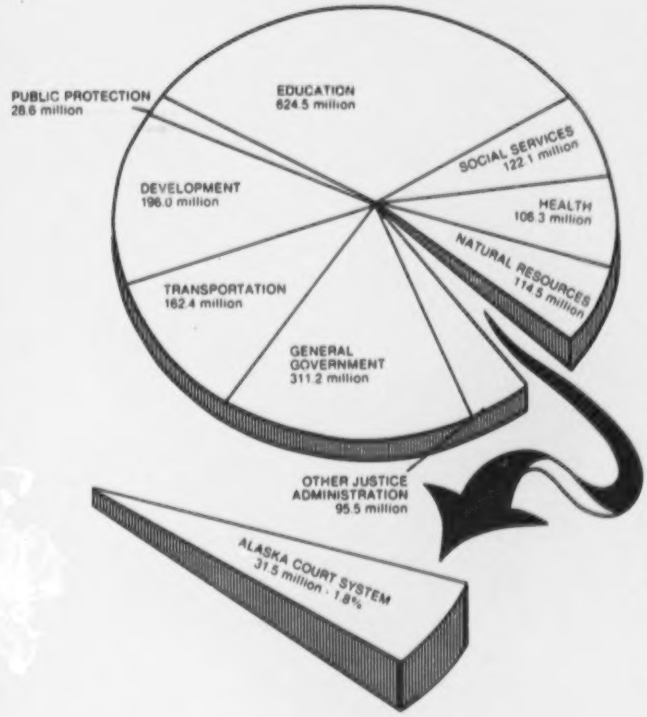
Personnel costs, at the 1982 level of $21,991,400, represent approximately 73% of the total operating budget. Expenses for rent, maintenance and insurance on court facilities in 57 locations across the state amounted to $847,000. Jury expenses amounted to $966,900 and attorney fees of $1,444,700 were paid. (Attorneys are contracted to serve as guardians *ad litem* in children's cases and to represent indigent defendants in cases where conflicts of interest exist within the Public Defender Agency). Due to the remote nature of many court locations and the distances separating various courts, approximately $811,700 was spent for travel expenses, including juror travel and per diem. Other operating expenses of the court, including commodities, phones, postage, and equipment rental, make up approximately $3,946,900 of the annual expense of the Court.

The court system annually collects three to four million dollars in revenues for deposit in the state general fund. In fiscal year 1982, the revenue generated from fines and forfeitures amounted to $2,462,200; civil case filing fees ($50.00 superior court, $25.00 district court, $5.00 small claims), $626,600; clerical fees (notary, transcript, copies), $180,400; other miscellaneous receipts, $233,500.

Magistrate Service Secretary Kelly Leary

STATE OF ALASKA FISCAL YEAR 1982

OPERATING BUDGET GENERAL FUND



Total General Fund Budget = 1,792.6 million

1982 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Alaska Court System maintains court facilities in 57 locations across the state. These facilities range in size and suitability from multimillion dollar court complexes in metropolitan areas to facilities in many rural locations consisting of only one small office. Each year, the court system attempts to upgrade its court facilities by building or leasing new or improved court facilities and by remodeling existing structures. During FY 82, numerous facility improvement projects were completed by the court system. Descriptions of these projects are given below. Also planning was started for projects to be completed in FY 83.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Petersburg

An additional 300 square feet of space was leased in the Petersburg court facility. This space was used for the expansion of the clerk's office and the creation of a small attorney/witness conference room. This new space was then carpeted.

Juneau

Plans are currently being developed to remodel the first floor courtroom to provide a jury box and jury room. This project will be completed in FY 83.

Sitka

Work has continued on the heating and ventilation system in the Sitka court facility in an effort to alleviate the overheated conditions of the courtroom. This work will continue into FY 83.

Craig

In April 1982, the court system increased its space in the municipality building in Craig by approximately 150 square feet.

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Kotzebue

In July the court system acquired 1500 square feet of additional space in the Kotzebue courthouse. This provided space for expansion needs of the clerk's office, an office for the district attorney, a jury deliberation hearing room that can be used for grand jury proceedings, a small superior court library, and a public lobby. Remodeling of the above space is near completion. It includes installation of new locks and hinges to provide better security and to allow the use of the library by the legal community after hours.

Nome

In September negotiations were completed with the General Services Administration, Region 10, to replace the badly worn cork tile in the courtroom of the Nome courthouse. This project was completed in the spring of 1982. The court system is also working with the Department of Administration to identify future space needs for the planning of a combined facility in Nome.

Emmonak

In FY 82 the court began negotiation with the City of Emmonak for the lease of approximately 120 square feet of private office space for the magistrate in the new Emmonak city building. The city also plans to build a large multi-purpose room that can be used for court hearings. This new building is scheduled for completion in 1983.

Mountain Village

In 1982 the court system began negotiations with the City of Mountain Village for the lease of private space for the magistrate in the new Mountain Village city office building. This new building is scheduled for completion in 1983.

Selawik

In FY 82, the court began negotiations with the City of Selawik for the lease of approximately 120 square feet of private office space for the magistrate in the new Selawik city building. The city also plans to build a large multi-purpose room that can be used for court hearings. This new building is scheduled for completion in 1983.

Point Hope

In July the court system relocated its operations from the magistrate's residence to a new facility built by the North Slope Borough Department of Public Safety. The new space is approximately 300 square feet, consisting of a private office of approximately 100 square feet and an adjacent hearing room of approximately 200 square feet.

Shungnak

In FY 82, a new magistrate post was created in Shungnak. In November the newly appointed magistrate moved into the Shungnak Public Safety Building. This facility provides approximately 360 square feet of office space that will be shared with the local law enforcement officers.

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Anchorage

In November 1982, the court system completed a major remodeling of approximately 23,000 square feet in the Anchorage courthouse complex. This project was organized in three phases and included the following:

Phase I

A. Remodeling approximately 1500 square feet in the basement of the new building. This included the conversion of eight jury sequestration rooms into five offices and three tape storage rooms to be used by the transcript section. A portion of the library stacks' 1400 square feet was remodeled to provide for a research area.

B. Remodeling of approximately 3500 square feet on the first floor of the old building. This project provided for the long term needs of the traffic section, including an open-concept clerical space, a controlled-access public lobby with special public counters that provide for computer terminals, a secretary/in-court clerk's office, and a traffic hearing room.

C. Remodeling of approximately 1500 square feet on the second floor of the old building. This provided space for a grand jury facility which includes a hearing room designed for 24 jurors, a jury deliberation room with two toilets, a witness room, and a secured witness waiting room.

D. Remodeling of approximately 5000 square feet on the fourth floor of the new building. This project developed two 12-person jury courtrooms with adequate spectator seating, a third 12-person jury courtroom specially designed for use by multi-party litigants in complex civil proceedings, and a jury deliberation room with toilet facilities.

Phase II

A. Remodeling of approximately 2600 square feet on the first floor of the old building. This expanded the coroner/public administrator's office, vital statistics section, and small claims section, including a deputy coroner's office, two public guardian offices, an accountant's office, remodeled clerical area with public counter, an improved evidence storage room, and an expanded small claims area which includes a public counter with public work surface area.

B. Remodeling of approximately 5800 square feet on the fourth floor of the new building to provide space for two 12-person jury courtrooms with adequate spectator seating, two jury deliberation rooms with toilet facilities, three judges' chambers with private toilets, three secretary offices, two law clerk offices, and a secured reception area.

Phase III

A. Remodeling of approximately 800 square feet on the first floor of the old building to provide space for a multi-purpose hearing room, and a 6-person jury deliberation room.

B. Remodeling of approximately 144 square feet on the first floor of the new building to provide a private office for the deputy clerk.

This project also improved the security system in the complex by providing the following:

1. Silent electronic panic button alarms in all judges' chambers, all judges' secretary offices, all in-court clerk stations, and all judges' benches.

2. An expanded security monitoring panel in the judicial service section of the state trooper area.

Plans for future remodeling in the Anchorage court facility include the remodel of an existing courtroom to create a media room designed for members of the press and others who wish to use electronic equipment to record court proceedings. Also, secured reception areas on the second and third floors are part of the remodeling plans for FY 83.

Homer

In FY 82 the court system acquired 1100 square feet of expansion space adjacent to the Homer courthouse. This new space provides for an enlarged law library and two attorney offices which can be used by the Department of Law and Public Defender. This frees offices in the courthouse for use as witness/conference rooms. Remodeling of the existing court facility was also completed, to include a soundproof corridor which will improve traffic flow from the clerk's office to the magistrate's office and allow the present small library to be used as a hearing room.

Kenai

During FY 82, the court system completed a remodeling of approximately 4000 square feet in the Kenai courthouse. This project provided space for an additional 12-person jury courtroom, a jury deliberation room with toilet facilities, a judge's chambers with toilet facilities, a secretary/reception area, a law clerk office, a small storage room, a small conference room, and expansion of the clerk's office.

Also included in this project was the remodeling of space allotted to the department of law. This created four private offices, a storage room, clerical space, and a secretary/reception area.

Kodiak

In December 1981, 930 square feet of office space was remodeled on the first floor in the Kodiak courthouse to allow the clerk's office to relocate from a congested area on the second floor. This relocation of the clerk's area was the first phase of a major remodeling effort to improve and expand the court facilities in Kodiak.

The second phase of this project included the remodeling of approximately 2000 square feet of space on the second floor. This provided space for an enlarged 12-person jury courtroom, a jury deliberation/multi-purpose room with toilet facilities, a prisoner control room, a public waiting area, a visiting judge's chambers, two conference rooms, and improved storage capability.

Naknek

The court system completed negotiations for the lease of approximately 1600 square feet of space located on the first floor of the Bristol Bay Borough Building in Naknek. Plans for this space include the creation of a small 12-person jury courtroom, a jury deliberation/conference room, a clerk's area with public counter, a magistrate's office and two small attorney/witness conference rooms. The court system is scheduled to relocate into this space in early February 1983.

St. Paul Island

The court system negotiated with the City of St. Paul for the lease of approximately 530 square feet of office space for the magistrate and a courtroom. This space is located in the St. Paul Municipal Building. The basic term of this lease is five years with an option to renew for five additional one-year periods.

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fairbanks

In October 1981, extensive work was completed which upgraded the existing heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system in the Fairbanks courthouse. These improvements provided an increased volume of cool air circulating to the courtrooms and office during periods of high outside temperature. This work was completed with the cooperation of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Division of General Design and Construction, and the Division of Maintenance & Operations. Additional work remains to be done on this project, and DOT is requesting a capital appropriation to finance this project in FY 84.

The clerk's office in the Fairbanks courthouse was expanded. This project added office space by reconfiguring the hallway and entry area adjacent to the clerk's office. In addition, two private offices were constructed.

Healy

In July 1981, the court system moved to a new facility in Healy. The new leased facility of 1220 square feet was built to court system specifications and provides for a small superior court. The space includes a small courtroom capable of being used for 12-person jury trials, a magistrate's office, a clerk's office with public counter, and a jury deliberation/multi-purpose room. The court system relocated into this new space from a single room in the main truck storage area of the Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

In June 1981, the Alaska Court System established new minority hiring goals. The total goal for the entire Alaska Court System was to have at least 18% of the workforce comprised of minorities. The target date for completion of this goal was June 1982. In June 1982, minorities comprised only 16.7% of the workforce. However, at the end of 1982, the Alaska Court System exceeded its goal. As of December 31, 1982, 18.5% of all Alaska Court System employees were minorities.

During 1982, 144 permanent classified positions were filled within the court system. Of the 144 positions filled, 122 were filled by newly hired employees and 22 were filled by the promotions of existing personnel. Of the 122 newly hired employees, 102 were Caucasian, eight were Alaska Native, five were Black, three were Asian Pacific Islanders and four were employees classified as other minorities. Of the 22 promoted employees, 18 were Caucasian, two were Alaska Native, one was Black and one was classified as other minority.

It appears that the Alaska Court System continues to make strides in attracting or promoting minorities into para-professional, professional and managerial positions. At the end of 1980, 11.5% of the minority employees were at salary ranges 13-19; at the end of 1981, 14.3% of the minority employees were in these salary ranges. However, neither in 1980 nor in 1981 were there minority employees in salary ranges 21-28. In 1982, 14.6% of the minority employees are in salary range 13 and above and minorities are now represented in salary ranges 21-28.

More women than ever before are being placed in managerial positions. In 1981, 28.5% of the positions at range 21 and above were filled by women. In 1982, 33-1/3% at this level are filled by women.

Personnel Director Frank Raye and Anchorage Jury Clerk Sally Adams

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

Location	Total Number of Employees	Caucasian		Alaska Native		Black		Asian/Pacific Islander		Other		Total Minority Hiring Goal
		Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	
1st District	42	34	N/A	4	6	1	*	3	*	0	*	8*
2nd District	11	5	N/A	4	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
3rd District	42	33	N/A	6	5	0	*	1	*	2	*	6*
Anchorage	172	143	N/A	7	8	14	8	3	3	5	3	24
4th District	12	5	N/A	6	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
Fairbanks	71	61	N/A	4	3	4	3	1	*	1	1	9*
Appellate Courts	38	34	N/A	1	4	0	*	3	*	0	*	6*
Administration	56	47	N/A	4	3	3	3	0	*	2	*	10*
TOTAL	444	362	N/A	36	43	23	14	11	3	12	4	77*

*Goals are computed by multiplying the number of available positions by the percentage of a specific minority present in an area's population. If the resulting number is less than one-half a position, no specific goal is assigned to that minority group. However, when the sum of the fractions of all minority groups equaled one or more positions, these positions were added to the total minority hiring goal.

EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PROGRAM

The Employee Achievement Award Program was started in April 1981 by Personnel Director Frank Raye. The program's goal is to reward outstanding job performance, innovative improvements and time saving techniques. Only classified permanent or probationary employees are eligible for nomination. Winners of the award receive a wall plaque and from one to three days off with pay.

The following employees have received the quarterly achievement award since May 1981:

1. Mary Jo Carr. Mary Jo was the secretary to the fourth district area court administrator, Pat Aloia. Fairbanks District Court Judge Steve Cline nominated her on the basis of what he described as her "outstanding job performance which continually amazes me,...doing what she does with extreme efficiency and courtesy and actually volunteering to do work in areas where it would not be expected of her as a 'business as usual' way of doing things."

2. Edward Pinkstaff. Pinky, as he is known to his friends, received the achievement award for his suggestion relating to improved mail delivery at a substantial cost saving to the court system. He works as a mail clerk in court supply in Anchorage.

3. Charlene Dolphin. As a rural court training assistant, Charlene regularly travels to help clerical staffs at 16 rural court locations in southcentral Alaska including the Aleutian

chain, Kodiak, Glennallen, Valdez, Cordova, the Kenai peninsula and the Bristol Bay area. Susan Miller, the magistrate system coordinator for the court system, nominated Charlene for having designed a statewide case numbering system which "improves the flow of documents between court locations throughout Alaska." Susan also credited Charlene for creating an arrest warrant and summons card which is effective not only in maintaining control of warrants and summons, but which also allows warrants to be recalled quickly when necessary to avoid false arrest. As a result of her many contributions, former Chief Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz appointed Charlene to the supreme court advisory committee on forms early this year.

4. Jo Hall. Jo was commended for exceptional work and for identifying and taking on additional tasks to reduce clerical backlogs in many court locations. Goldeen Goodfellow, the clerk of the Anchorage trial courts who nominated Jo, praised her for "traveling to the outlying courts whenever there was an illness or a backlog of work, and coming back with suggestions that could ease the stress in those courts." Jo completed such assignments in Kotzebue, Kenai, Homer and Palmer.

5. Anna Creasey. Anna worked for fifteen years as chief deputy clerk for the superior court in Fairbanks before she retired and moved with her husband, Ron, to Homer in August 1975. In December 1976, she was asked to come out of retirement to assist the Homer court as clerk. She has been the clerk (and acting magistrate) there since that date.

In his nomination letter, Homer District Court Judge Hornaday commended Anna as "a leader in the court system" and for her work as a member of several statewide committees on court system improvements.

LAW LIBRARIES

Technology continued to play an important role in the daily operations of the Anchorage law library during 1982. Interlibrary loan requests are now transmitted to the University of Washington's Resource

Sharing Program by electronic mail and copies of journal articles may soon be received using telefacsimile equipment. The Washington Library Network provides network bibliographic support and systems and also produces microfiche catalogs of Anchorage holdings on a regular basis. Expansion of WESTLAW searching to the legal community on a fee basis permits wide use of computer assisted legal research.

Significant equipment purchases for state law libraries have included microfiche reader printers for Fairbanks, Juneau and Ketchikan. Subscribing to selected federal and state materials in microfiche format instead of hard copy will ease space problems in these libraries. The Anchorage law library acquires most federal legislative documents on microfiche and during 1982 completed purchase of the microfiche serial set retrospective to 1970.

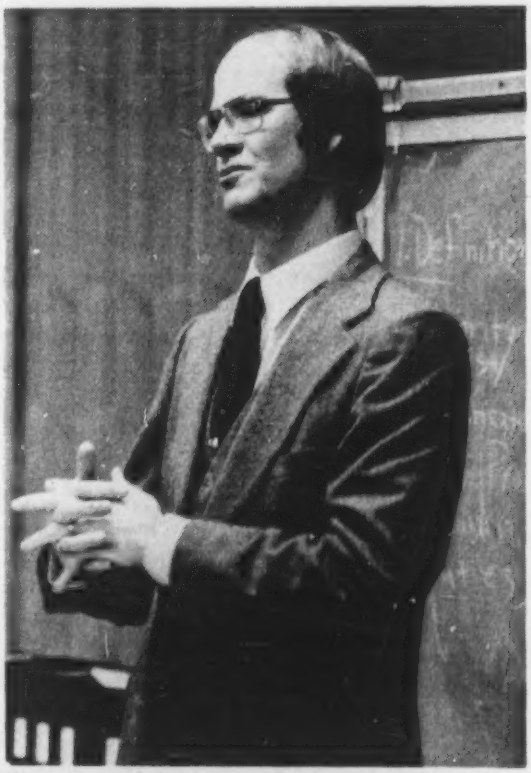
During the year, several libraries were reorganized or moved entirely to larger areas, including those in Homer, Wrangell, Ketchikan and Sitka. Remodeling continues at the Kotzebue court in an effort to provide adequate space for a superior court book collection.

Appointments of three superior court judges in non-Anchorage locations will require upgrading library facilities at those courts: Palmer, Barrow and Wrangell. These libaries are currently being maintained at a level appropriate for district court operations.

FORMS COMMITTEE FY 82

Fiscal year 1982 was a very active year for the forms committee. The forms committee is comprised of Superior Court Judge Victor Carlson, District Court Judge Glen Anderson, Magistrate Brigitte McBride, Clerk of Court Wayne Wolfe, Area Court Administrator Kristen Carlisle, Manager of Special Projects Susan Miller, Rural Court Training Assistant Charlene Dolphin, Magistrate Training Assistant Bob Martin and Deputy Director of Operations Rick Barrier.

Magistrae Training Assistant Bob Martin



Deputy Director of Operations Rick Barrier

The full committee met several times during the year, and prepared and distributed a complete revision of the small claims forms and a complete revision of the criminal forms. These two sets of forms are the most heavily used of all the standardized forms, and both sets had not gone under major revisions since their original creation. The forms committee also reviewed and approved other miscellaneous forms, and ratified forms developed by members of the administrative staff and the procedures developed by the forms mini-committee.

The forms mini-committee was established in April 1982, comprised of the non-judicial Anchorage members of the full forms committee. The mini-committee initially met weekly and then less frequently. This committee, with the concurrence of the full committee, took responsibility for reviewing all requests to court supply for printing new and revised forms. The mini-committee developed procedures for reporting new forms to the trial courts, the forms committee bulletin system.

The mini-committee also worked closely with the supply section to develop a more efficient method of handling requests from the trial courts for the printing of new and revised forms. The mini-committee took over responsibility for assigning numbers to all court forms and maintaining a library of currently approved forms.

Other members of the administrative staff were working individually during this time period on new sets of forms in response to legislation passed in 1981. Cindy McBurney, judicial education coordinator, and Charlene Dolphin, rural training assistant, developed standard probate/sanity forms in response to the new mental commitment bill, and also developed domestic violence forms in response to the domestic violence bill. Charlene Dolphin and Bob Martin worked together to revise the small claims handbook following the revision of the small claims forms by the full committee.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

During FY 1982 two major personnel changes occurred in the administrative office. Dick Delaplain became the manager of technical operations, replacing Mel Martin who had previously left the court to pursue a Ph.D. Former Superior Court Judge Thomas Stewart was appointed to the position of court rules attorney, a position established by the 1981 legislature.

COURT SPECIALIST'S REPORT

The position of court specialist is a combination staff and operations position. The present incumbent serves as area court administrator for the second judicial district, assisting the presiding judge and other judges of the district with administrative matters. In a staff capacity, the incumbent has worked on the following projects:

Jury Management

The statewide jury management system was revised to improve juror selection by eliminating out-of-state and deceased residents, and improving the court's ability to eliminate duplicate names. The multitude of various jury forms were reduced to three statewide forms. A permanent jury excusal file was established to eliminate the subsequent summoning of an individual who was permanently excused. Administrative rules were revised for improved jury management.

Records Management

A records retention schedule has been developed for the retention/destruction of court records. This is the first step in the development of a comprehensive program for dealing with the records management problems in trial courts. Work will continue to address the areas of microfilming, storage, and retrieval of records.

Pretrial Delay

At the state judicial conference in June 1982, the judges from each district worked on plans for reducing pretrial delay in both civil and criminal matters. A continuing priority program for all courts will be to implement delay reduction efforts in the several districts, and the administrative office will aid and assist in this work as well as monitor progress.

Technical Assistance

Part of the responsibility of the position of court specialist is to provide operational assistance to the trial courts. During the period of January through June of 1982, the court specialist was reassigned to the Anchorge district court to assist in improving caseflow management. The following changes were implemented:

> A calendaring/administrative office was established for the district court.
>
> The civil calendar/case management process was automated. All pending cases were placed on this system. Internal calendars are being generated. External notices are being printed.
>
> Civil and criminal case processing procedures/policies were documented and distributed for comment.
>
> Facility changes were implemented to establish a permanent arraignment courtroom and calendaring/administrative office.

Ketchikan Clerk of Court Kristen Carlisle learns how to operate the new computer equipment from Mark Beaudin, Systems Analyst for Technical Operations.

AUTMOATION IN THE COURT SYSTEM

In the last half of 1982, the Alaska Court System embarked on a large scale project to implement automated data/word processing equipment and systems in selected courts. It is the intent of this 20-24 month project to automate 100% of the superior court caseload statewide, and approximately 90-95% of the district court/magistrate caseload statewide. In addition to trial court applications, a similar system will be implemented in the appellate court clerk's office.

In the past, when a local court demonstrated an increase in its workload, new clerical positions were added to the court to cope with the increased duties. Proposed constitutional limitations on state spending coupled with projected decreased state revenues will make it very difficult for local courts to respond to increasingly complex records processing and case management tasks in this manner.

The goal of this automation project is to use microcomputers and other data/word processing technology to allow the court system to keep spending down and at the same time assist local courts to efficiently handle increased caseloads and complex litigation with existing staff.

As of January 1983, Kenai, Kodiak, Ketchikan and Nome trial courts have had these new microcomputer systems installed. There will be 14 additional systems installed in the next 18 months.

In order to achieve the desired increase in the ratio of filings to full-time clerical positions, the following applications are being considered for inclusion in each system implemented:

- automated case records (all case types)
- automated case calendaring (case scheduling and calendar production)
- automated name indexes (eliminates the need for cards)
- automated accounting (machine generated receipts and accounting reports)
- automated management information (each system will be able to track cases from filing to disposition and provide all routine or ad hoc management reports. This would, for example, alert clerks to fines due, SIS cases in need of review, filings due, or scheduled events for each case, etc.
- automated jury management (once master jury lists have been compiled, all qualifications, summons, excusals, deferrals, pay records, etc. can be produced locally)
- word processing applications (each system will be able to simultaneously perform a full range of data processing and word processing)
- on-line access to all active case records (courts will have multiple terminals that will allow clerks to immediately inquire about, update, or modify any active case record)
- on-line case indexes (all parties to a case will be indexed and can be accessed via a phonetic name search. A name spelling similar to the one desired would retrieve all records with a similar name)
- on-line management reports (a flexible report generating program will be included that will allow judges and clerks to request immediate reports regarding almost any type of case related information)
- automated statistical information (these systems will completely replace the current statewide case reporting system. The administrative office will retrieve any statistical information it needs from the automated systems. Clerks will no longer have to fill out the case reporting forms)
- automated case dispositions reporting (traffic and possibly criminal case dispositions can be automatically forwarded to appropriate state agencies)

Each system installed will be a complete trial court management package. Case calendaring, indexing, routine forms generation, accounting, jury management and caseflow management are features being considered for inclusion. Complete statistical reports will be available to court personnel on demand. For example, these systems can produce daily tickler lists for all cases that require specified action on a given date or range of dates. Analyses of all pending cases can be routinely conducted to identify cases that are not progressing satisfactorily or are approaching a deadline (e.g., criminal cases approaching 120 days, civil cases with filings due, cases with fines due, cases due for annual review, etc.). These systems will be designed to allow the clerks and judges to efficiently control and direct their court's activities, thus avoiding having to react to unexpected occurrences.

It is anticipated that full implementation of this project will take approximately 20-24 months. System design, initial and follow-up training and system maintainence will be provided by the administrative office's technical operations section.

ANCHORAGE COURTHOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT

The most significant need of the Alaska Court System for FY 84 is the authorization to begin construction of a major addition to the Anchorage court complex. The previous legislature approved a $9.9 million capital appropriation to the court system for design of a new Anchorage court facility, acquisition of property, and remodeling necessary to join the new building with the existing facilities. The legislature has recognized the fact that the court facilities are overcrowded and need expansion space. A number of court and related offices have already been forced out of the existing court facilities, including the administrative office of the courts, public defender, the judicial council, portions of the district attorney's offices, and the attorney general's office. These offices are paying nearly $1 million in rent each year. To make room for these offices, and to plan for the future growth of the court, the court system has developed plans for a new facility which would adequately provide for the space needs of the court for the next 25 years. The continuing growth in cases and the resulting pressure on the existing facility dictate that new facilities be constructed in the immediate future. Any delays at this point will lead to severe operational problems within the courts and an inconvenience to the public that would not be acceptable.

The court system has in previous years submitted a capital budget request for the construction funds for this new court facility. However, a review of the funding alternatives has indicated that the total long-term cost to the state would be less if a private developer builds the building and leases it back to the state with an option to purchase in the future. Also, with an estimated cost of $35 to $50 million (depending upon the configuration), and with the state facing lower revenues and cash reserves in the immediate future, a leased facility offers an attractive alternative to state construction.

The executive branch has been working on a plan to build an office building in Anchorge under a similar lease arrangement with a private developer. The response from the private sector has been good, and such a project will benefit the state and the private sector. One difference that exists between the court system project and that of the executive branch is that the court will have a detailed design prior to seeking bids from the private sector. It is anticipated that this should lead to a very competitive bid from the private sector.

This proposed addition would be located adjacent to the two existing buildings (called the old and new Anchorage buildings) and would add approximately 200,000 to 270,000 gross square feet of space. Besides providing for the expansion needs of the court system until 2010, the new building will allow for the expansion of the following court-related offices: judicial services section of the state troopers, department of law, public defender, and judicial council.

The new building will provide space for the following: fourteen trial courtrooms with adequate support space, one high-security arraignment courtroom, one courtroom designed specifically for use by members of the news media, four hearing rooms for family court including two for divorce matters and two for children's matters, and two probate court hearing rooms. The building will also allow for expansion of the clerk's office and law library. Office space will be provided for the public defender (with separate public access), special prosecutions and appeals section of the attorney general's office, administrative director, area court administrator, central court supply storage and technical operations, which includes computer operations and statistical research.

PROPOSED OFFICE OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY

The Alaska Court System presently performs three functions which are not judicial in nature:

1. Appointment of attorneys to represent indigent defendants who cannot be represented by the public defender due to a conflict of interest within that agency [required by AS 18.85.130(a)];
2. Appointment of attorneys to serve as guardians ad litem and attorneys in civil cases, including children's proceedings and divorce cases (required by AS 09.65.130).
3. Public guardian services (required by AS 13.26.370).

The public guardian's role as provider of social work and advocacy services stands in contrast to the court's primary responsibility, which is the adjudication of disputes.

With regard to court-appointed counsel, although it is appropriate for the court to identify the need for counsel in a given case, ongoing supervision of representation is an administrative function. This task substantially relates to client advocacy. Both social work and advocacy services are not proper court functions, and should be removed from the judicial branch.

Since it is inappropriate and costly to the state for the court to continue to oversee these functions, the court system proposes reallocating these services to the executive branch by creating an agency called the Office of Public Advocacy. It is projected that the office could result in a savings to the state of $750,000 in FY 84 alone.

Outline of Proposed Office

The proposed office would be part of the department of administration. It would be headed by the public advocate, who would be an attorney. The public advocate would have broad authority to appoint subordinates and to establish office procedures as he or she deemed appropriate.

The office would provide public guardians to persons unable to procure guardianship services, guardians ad litem when required by the court, and experts and visitors in all guardianship cases (as currently required by AS 13.26.131). The office would also provide legal representation and/or guardian ad litem services to minors in custody proceedings, representation in public defender conflict cases, representation in Alaska Legal Services custody conflict cases, representation to indigent respondents in guardianship proceedings, and to other persons as required by law. Services could be provided either by staff or by contract in such a manner as to avoid conflicts of interest.

The most efficient way to handle these services is through the creation of offices in the major locations around the state (Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau/Ketchikan) that would service all three needs. This will permit the sharing of resources, including space, attorneys, clerical support, and other administrative costs. In developing the staffing requirements and other costs associated with the creation of these offices, it was determined that in many instances it would be less costly for the state to establish full time offices with full time employees rather than contract for these services. The proposed budget for this new office indicates a total of six full time attorney positions plus the public advocate (who is also an attorney) to cover the legal workload. Funds are also budgeted for contract guardians ad litem and attorneys in criminal cases where either a triple conflict exists or else for assistance in remote locations.

Cost Savings to the State

The total proposed budget for the Office of Public Advocacy is $1,540,000. The amount requested in the Alaska Court System budget for these functions in FY 84 is $2,291,500. Therefore, the creation of this new office can save the state approximately $750,000 in FY 84 alone.

In projecting the cost of providing these services in the future, it is obvious that the savings to the state will continue to increase each year if this new office is established. The budget for criminal conflict representation was $140,000 in FY 74, and the guardian ad litem budget was $2,000 in that same year. In FY 84, the court will pay $1,885,000 for attorney and guardian ad litem services. These costs have risen much more rapidly than the cost of providing these services by the public defender. The current cost per case for court-appointed counsel is over three times that of the cost per case of the public defender. The office structure established in the proposed budget is capable of absorbing reasonable caseload increases with no additional staff. The alternative of continuing to contract with attorneys can only cost more. If the court is ever forced to pay at an hourly rate equal to standard customary charges of the attorneys, the cost to the state would be prohibitive.

Better Service to the Public

The public will be better served by a new agency. Persons appointed as public guardian should be trained in social work, and the office should specialize in meeting the needs of wards. This will not be possible as long as the office is staffed by court system personnel and headed by the coroner/public administrator.

With regard to court appointed attorneys, court system administrative resources have extended only as far as preparation of contracts and payment for services. This limited role may have been sufficient in 1974, when the budget for criminal conflict representation was $140,000 and when funds allocated for guardians ad litem totalled only $2,000. However, FY 83 funds allocated to compensate court appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem total $1,444,400. A program of this magnitude should be supervised and evaluated on an ongoing basis. The court system cannot and should not undertake comprehensive administration of advocacy services.

CAPITAL BUDGET - ELECTRONIC COURT RECORDING EQUIPMENT

The court system FY 84 capital budget request is comprised of one project - the implementation of new in-court recording systems throughout the state. This request is a result of the obsolescence of the existing reel-to-reel tape recording equipment and unavailability of new or replacement machines compatible with the present equipment.

Electronics Engineer John Stechman

The court system has utilized electronic court recording equipment since statehood. The advantages of electronic reporting have been repeatedly documented, most recently by the legislative budget and audit committee in a report dated March 21, 1980. This report identified a cost savings to the Anchorage trial courts alone of approximately $800,000 per year in utilizing electronic court reporting in lieu of manual court reporting.

The financial savings from the use of electronic equipment benefit both the court system and the general public. In many cases, the necessity for expensive transcription is eliminated. The taped court record can be easily duplicated onto a conventional audio cassette at low cost. Last year more than 20,000 cassette copies of court proceedings were furnished by the court system, each copy containing the equivalent of more than 50 written transcript pages. Cassettes are furnished at $5.00 per copy, as compared to a typed transcript which currently costs $3.25 per page in Anchorage. Members of the public may also listen to recordings of non-confidential court proceedings at any court location at no cost, using court-furnished playback equipment. Easy access to a court record is thus never denied to anyone because of a person's inability to pay for a copy.

The electronic recording equipment currently in use was installed in 1973. The system is comprised of heavily modified four-channel Akai home entertainment reel-to-reel tape recorders along with several pieces of peripheral equipment. This recording system has been rendered functionally obsolete in the last few yearr by the development of four-channel cassette recorders specifically designed for courtroom use. These new recorders significantly improve courtroom efficiency through advances in technology. Microprocessor controls on the new recorders allow testimony to be recovered and played back with speed, ease and accuracy during court proceedings, thus expediting the proceedings. Reliable protection against accidental over-recording or erasure is furnished. Recording volume is automatically set to the correct level, ensuring maximum clarity of the record at all times. These features are not present on the current system. Yet, despite these many advantages, the new equipment is substantially less complex than the Akai system presently in use, and is easier to operate, maintain and repair.

Two additional factors make the newer cassette equipment more desirable. First, duplication in the cassette format is easier and can be accomplished with less expensive and more compact machinery. Less time and skill are required to produce a cassette copy. Second, reel-to-reel recording equipment compatible with the Akai system is no longer available except at substantial cost. This is a key factor, as increased equipment needs resulting from court expansion have now consumed almost the entire supply of spare recording equipment. Little is available for emergency backup use and none is available for use in future court expansion.

As a result of these considerations, the court system began a survey in 1982 of available electronic court reporting equipment with the intent of replacing the existing system. The court system purchased three different cassette format court recorders and subjected these to detailed analysis. In addition, detailed manufacturer's data sheets for the only available reel-to-reel court recorder were examined. The court system rejected this reel-to-reel recorder because of its cost and because record duplication from it was difficult and expensive.

The cassette format recorders were found to be substantially different in functional and operational features. Only one, the Gyyr ACR-7, completely met the court system's established criteria. This machine is sold by an Alaskan distributor and is completely manufactured in the United States.

Efficient electronic court reporting equipment must contain several features unavailable on any commercial recorder. The electronic engineering office has designed an interface unit incorporating these features which will be installed with the new recorders. One of the primary features will be a telephone connection which will permit an individual not present in the courtroom to listen to ongoing proceedings. It is anticipated that substantial reductions in prisoner transportation costs may be realized through utilization of this device. Reduction of civil litigation costs may also be through elimination of the need to transport certain witnesses.

New recorders are only part of the answer to the problem of upgrading recording system performance. Microphone technology has advanced in the past decade. A court system survey led to the selection of Crown PZM microphones. These units are over twice as sensitive as those currently in use in Alaska courtrooms and are inconspicuous, which may reduce the degree of intimidation some people feel when they are confronted by microphones.

The total cost of this project is $1,410,918. This includes the replacement of recording equipment in all the courtrooms in the state and the associated machines used for playback and transcription, tape duplicators, improved microphones, interface and amplifier units, and tape storage equipment. It is anticipated that installation will begin in September 1983 and should be completed by March 1984.

LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE COURTS

1982 Session

The Twelfth Legislature enacted a number of bills affecting the judiciary.

Domestic Violence

Statutes relating to domestic violence were amended to extend the period in which court orders remain in effect, to provide that any peace officer (not just a state trooper) can be designated to serve process, to include violence against persons who have not married but have lived in a "spousal relationship," and to permit the court to direct the respondent to engage in counselling [Chapter 61].

Number of Superior Court Judges

The number of superior court judges increased from 23 to 26. Judgeships were created at Barrow and Palmer, and Wrangell was upgraded from a district to a superior court location. [Chapter 70].

Supreme Court Authority Over Court Facilities

The supreme court's express statutory authority over all matters relating to the planning, construction, maintenance and occupancy of court facilities was extended for another two years. [Chapter 70].

Coroner Matters

Statutes relating to inquests were revised. The duties of the coroner were clarified. An inquest is no longer required if a grand jury will inquire into the death. Also, a verdict that a killing occurred by criminal means will be submitted to the prosecutor, as opposed to the previous language which requested the coroner to issue an arrest warrant. Finally, specific procedures were adopted for inventory and disposition of property of unclaimed bodies. These changes promoted efficiency by simplifying the procedures which coroners must follow. [Chapter 107].

Election Cases

Formerly the validity of a candidate's right to office was tested by an original cause of action in the supreme court. A new section, AS 15.13.120(h), provides that charges against successful candidates and their campaign treasurers shall be promptly tried in superior court and accorded preferential calendaring. [Chapter 134].

Exemptions

Legislation drafted by the Code Revision Commission modernized allowable exemptions from execution on judgments, but also created new court procedures. As a result, a complete revision of execution forms was required. The court system also prepared a handbook for use by creditors, debtors and court clerks explaining the new exemption procedures. [Chapter 62].

Videotaped Testimony

A new law permits the state to videotape the testimony of a child who is a victim of a sexual offense, and to exclude the public from the courtroom during testimony at trial. [Chapter 67].

Custody

The court can now award shared custody in divorce proceedings if the court determines it is in the child's best interest. The court must state the reasons for denying a request for shared custody. Custody proceedings may be closed to the public if warranted. Additionally, the court may order mediation, with costs to be paid by the parties or by the state if both are indigent. [Chapter 88].

Criminal Code

The legislature prohibited release of a defendant on his or her own recognizance when the defendant is charged with a class A or unclassified felony. Derivative use immunity rather than the transactional immunity approach was adopted. Additionally, the insanity defense has been changed to include a verdict of "guilty but mentally ill." [Chapter 143].

FOREWORD

During FY 81, the administrative office conducted a review of the data collection, data processing and analysis procedures upon which annual reports have been based. It was the conclusion of this review that substantial changes should be made in these procedures. The FY 81 annual report reflected these changes in that substantially less detailed case processing information was published.

The administrative office is continuing with a two year program to revise its data collection and data processing capabilities and procedures. The backbone of this program involves the implementation of several micro-processor based computers in local courts to support day-to-day operations in the court and simultaneously provide all necessary statistical information to the administrative office. These computer systems are discussed in the special reports section of this annual report.

During the two year transition to our new data collection system, we will be publishing significantly less detailed information in our annual reports. The data will, however, be consistent from year to year. As we accomplish the transition to a new data collection and processing system, we will gradually reintroduce the level of specificity that was contained in previous annual reports. For readers who have come to expect and rely on the detailed data that is omitted in this report, we ask that you bear with us during this transition period.

This year's annual report (FY 82) contains the same level of detail as was contained in the FY 81 annual report. Therefore, tables from the FY 82 report can be directly compared with table in the FY 81 report.

This statistical supplement is designed primarily for research applications. It is comprised of six sections dealing with appellate and trial court statistics and a glossary of terms. Trial court statistics are comprised of superior court, high volume district court and low volume district court data.

Any reader with questions, comments or suggestions to offer on this statistical supplement is encouraged to contact the:

Manager, Technical Operations
Administrative Director's Office
303 K Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Telephone: (907) 264-0544

INDEX TO STATISTICAL TABLES

Supreme Court

S-3 Summary of Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-3 Summary of Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-4 Dispositions by Type of Disposition FY 81/82
S-5 Reasons for Cases Pending

Court of Appeals

S-9 Summary of Filings FY 81/82
S-9 Summary of Dispositions FY 81/82
S-10 Dispositions by Type of Disposition FY 81/82
S-10 Cases Pending
S-11 Reasons for Cases Pending

Statewide Trial Court

S-15 Alaska Population
S-16 Alaska Courts Distribution of Population, Policemen & Lawyers
S-17 Alaska Courts Authorized Judicial Positions
S-18 Alaska Courts Authorized Personnel Positions
S-19 Alaska Courts FY 81/82 Operating Costs
S-20 Alaska Courts Distribution of Population, Costs and Judges

Superior Court

S-25 Summary of Filings by Court 1978 - FY 81/82
S-26 Composition of FY 81/82 Filings
S-27 Summary of Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-28 Felony Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-29 Composition of FY 81/82 Felony Filings
S-30 Felony Case Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-31 Other Criminal Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-32 Probate Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-33 Composition of FY 81/82 Probate Filings
S-34 Probate Case Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-35 Domestic Relations Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-36 Composition of FY 81/82 Domestic Relations Filings
S-37 Domestic Relations Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-38 Other Civil Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-39 Composition of FY 81/82 Other Civil Case Filings
S-40 Other Civil Case Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-41 Children's Matters Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-42 Composition of FY 81/82 Children's Matters Filings
S-43 Formal Dispositions for FY 81/82 Children's Matters
S-44 Children's Matters Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82

District Court (Higher Volume)

S-49 Summary of Filings by Court 1978 - FY 81/82
S-50 Composition of FY 81/82 Filings by Court

S-51 Summary of Dispositions by Court 1978 - FY 81/82
S-52 Summary of Non-Traffic Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-53 Summary of Non-Traffic Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-54 Felony Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-55 Composition of FY 81/82 Felony Filings
S-56 Felony Case Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-57 Misdemeanor Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-58 Composition of FY 81/82 Misdemeanor Filings
S-59 Misdemeanor Case Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-60 Other Criminal Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-61 Small Claims Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-62 Small Claims Case Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-63 Other Civil Case Filings 1978 - FY 81/82
S-64 Composition of FY 81/82 Other Civil Case Filings
S-65 Other Civil Case Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-66 Traffic Case Dispositions 1978 - FY 81/82
S-67 Composition of Traffic Case Disposition FY 81/82

District Court (Lower Volume)

S-73 Summary of FY 81/82 Filings by District
S-73 Summary of FY 81/82 Dispositions by District
S-74 First Judicial District FY 81/82 Filings
S-74 First Judicial District FY 81/82 Dispositions
S-75 Second Judicial District FY 81/82 Filings
S-75 Second Judicial District FY 81/82 Dispositions
S-76 Third Judicial District FY 81/82 Filings
S-76 Third Judicial District FY 81/82 Dispositions
S-77 Fourth Judicial District FY 81/82 Filings
S-77 Fourth Judicial District FY 81/82 Dispositions
S-78 Bethel Service Area FY 81/82 Filings
S-78 Bethel Service Area FY 81/82 Dispositions

SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF FILINGS
FY 79/80 - FY 81/82

TYPE OF CASE	FY79/80	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Appeals:				
Civil	283	301	260	-14
* Criminal	141	31	36	+16
* Sentence	55	17	1	-94
Petitions for Review	147	120	103	-14
Original Applications	25	24	16	-33
TOTAL	651	493	416	-16

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS

TYPE OF CASE	FY79/80	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE FY80/81 to FY81/82
Appeals:				
Civil	266	267	273	+2
* Criminal	132	240	26	-89
* Sentence	53	68	1	-99
Petitions for Review	133	148	102	-31
Original Applications	25	22	20	-9
TOTAL	609	745	422	-43

*Now handled by Court of Appeals

SUPREME COURT
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION
FY 81/82

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	MERIT	DISMISSAL OR OTHER	
Appeals:			
Civil	175	98	273
Criminal	8	18	26
Sentence	1	-	1
Petitions for Review	17	85	102
Original Applications	8	12	20
TOTAL	209	213	422
% OF TOTAL	50%	50%	100%

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

SUPREME COURT
CASES PENDING AS OF June 30, 1982

TYPE OF CASE	FY 79/80	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Appeals:				
Civil	332	366	353	- 4
Criminal *	222	13	23	+77
Sentence*	52	1	1	-
Petitions for Review	56	28	29	+ 4
Original Applications	8	10	6	-40
TOTAL	670	418	412	- 1

* Now handled by Court of Appeals

SUPREME COURT
REASON FOR CASES PENDING
June 30, 1982

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING							STAYED	TOTAL
	DRAFT OPINION CIRCULATING	DRAFT OPINION	RECORDS	BRIEFS	Hearing Submiss	DECISION	MANDATE		
Appeals:									
Civil	84	72	37	97	41	-	9	13	353
Criminal	3	4	-	4	5	5	-	2	23
Sentence	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Petitions for Review	2	1	-	8	4	12	-	2	29
Original Applications	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	6
TOTAL	90	78	37	111	50	19	9	18	412
% OF TOTAL	22%	19%	9%	27%	12%	5%	2%	4%	100%

COURT OF APPEALS

COURT OF APPEALS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS
FY 80/81 - FY 81/82

TYPE OF CASE		FY 80/81*	FY 81/82	% INCREASE
Appeals:				
Merit		304	249	-18
Sentence		72	117	+63
Petitions for Review		58	78	+34
Original Applications		5	12	
TOTAL		439	456	+4

*September 1980 - June 1981
Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

COURT OF APPEALS
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS

TYPE OF CASE		FY 80/81*	FY 81/82	% INCREASE
Appeals:				
Merit		49	174	+255
Sentence		25	63	+152
Petitions for Review		40	79	+98
Original Applications		4	12	
TOTAL		118	328	+178

*September 1980 - June 1981

COURT OF APPEALS
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION
FY 81/82

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	MERITS	NOT ON MERITS	
Appeals:			
Merit	127	47	174
Sentence	42	21	63
Petitions for Review	22	57	79
Original Applications	4	8	12
TOTAL	195	133	328
% OF TOTAL	59%	41%	100%

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

COURT OF APPEALS
CASES PENDING AS OF June 30, 1982

TYPE OF CASE		FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE
Appeals:				
Merit		255	330	+29
Sentence		47	101	+115
Petitions for Review		18	17	-6
Original Applications		1	1	-
TOTAL		321	449	+40

COURT OF APPEALS
REASON FOR CASES PENDING

June 30, 1982

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING							STAYED AND/OR REMAND	TOTAL
	DRAFT DISPOSITION CIRCULATING	AWAITING DRAFT DISPOSITION	RECORDS	BRIEFS	Hearing SUBMISSION	DECISION	MANDATE		
Appeals:									
Merit	49	111	45	75	35	-	8	7	330
Sentence	12	51	14	11	3	-	4	6	101
Petitions for Review	4	7	-	2	1	-	-	3	17
Original Applications	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	65	169	59	89	39	-	12	16	449
% OF TOTAL	14%	38%	13%	20%	9%	-	3%	3%	100%

STATEWIDE TRIAL COURT

ALASKA POPULATION

LOCATION	POPULATION			% INCREASE 1970 TO	% OF STATE-WIDE TOTAL
	1970 CENSUS	1981* ESTIMATE	INCREASE		
Anchorage	126,333	180,740	54,407	43%	42.8%
Barrow	3,451	7,098	3,647	106%	1.7%
Bethel	11,946	13,270	1,324	11%	3.1%
Delta Junction	3,343	5,223	1,880	56%	1.2%
Fairbanks	45,864	58,313	12,449	27%	13.8%
Glenallen	774	531	-243	-31%	.1%
Haines	1,504	1,712	208	14%	.4%
Homer	1,083	2,387	1,304	120%	.6%
Juneau	13,556	21,080	7,524	56%	4.9%
Kenai	12,730	20,686	7,956	62%	4.9%
Ketchikan	11,717	11,373	-344	-3%	2.7%
Kotzebue	2,389	3,571	1,182	49%	.8%
Kodiak	9,409	9,728	319	3%	2.3%
Nome	4,228	6,052	1,824	43%	1.4%
Palmer	6,509	19,123	12,614	194%	4.5%
Seward	2,336	2,917	581	25%	.7%
Sitka	6,109	7,927	1,818	30%	1.9%
Tok	836	580	-256	-31%	.1%
Valdez	2,324	5,750	3,426	147%	1.4%
Wrangell	2,423	2,486	63	3%	.6%
Petersburg	2,042	3,467	1,425	70%	.8%
Other (Low Volume)	31,455	38,173	6,718	21%	9.0%
TOTAL	302,361	422,187	119,826	40%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	42,565	55,985	13,420	32%	13.3%
Second	9,797	12,525	2,728	28%	2.9%
Third	190,471	259,297	68,826	36%	61.4%
Fourth	59,528	94,380	34,852	59%	22.4%

*Alaska Dept. of Labor 1981 Demographic Survey

ALASKA COURTS

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, POLICEMEN AND LAWYERS

LOCATION	POPULATION	TOTAL * NUMBER POLICEMEN	POLICE PER THOUSAND POPULATION 3÷2x1000	TOTAL NUMBER LAWYERS	LAWYERS PER THOUSAND POPULATION 5÷2x1000
Anchorage	180,740	300	1.7	935	5.2
Barrow	7,098	34	4.8	5	.7
Bethel	13,270	35	2.6	15	1.1
Delta Junction	5,223	3	.6	-	-
Fairbanks	58,313	92	1.6	143	2.5
Glennallen	531	5	9.4	1	1.9
Haines	1,712	6	3.5	2	1.2
Homer	2,387	8	3.3	6	2.5
Juneau	21,080	34	1.6	157	7.4
Kenai	20,686	31	1.5	29	1.4
Ketchikan	11,373	38	3.3	29	2.5
Kotzebue	3,571	15	4.2	5	1.4
Kodiak	9,728	32	3.3	17	1.7
Nome	6,052	13	2.1	10	1.7
Palmer	19,123	27	1.4	19	.9
Petersberg	3,467	9	2.6	2	.6
Seward	2,917	13	4.5	2	.7
Sitka	7,927	15	1.9	13	1.6
Tok	580	7	12.1	-	-
Valdez	5,750	15	2.6	6	1.0
Wrangell	2,486	7	2.8	2	.8
Total	384,014	739	1.9	1,398	3.6

*Criminal Justice Planning Agency Dept. of Law.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	48,045	109	2.3	205	4.3
Second	9,623	28	2.9	15	1.6
Third	241,862	431	1.8	1,015	4.2
Fourth	84,484	171	2.0	163	1.9

ALASKA COURTS
AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL POSITIONS
June 30, 1982

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	MAGI-STRATES	MASTERS	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
Anchorage	10	7	6	4	27	26.7%
Barrow			1		1	.9%
Bethel	1		1		2	1.9%
Delta Junction			1		1	.9%
Fairbanks	4	4	1		9	8.9%
Glenallen			1		1	.9%
Haines			1		1	.9%
Homer		1			1	.9%
Juneau	2	1			3	2.9%
Kenai	1		1		2	1.9%
Ketchikan	1	1			2	1.9%
Kotzebue	1		1		2	1.9%
Kodiak	1		1		2	1.9%
Nome	1		1		2	1.9%
Palmer			1		1	.9%
Seward			1		1	.9%
Sitka	1		1		2	1.9%
Tok			1		1	.9%
Valdez		1			1	.9%
Wrangell		1	1		2	1.9%
Petersburg			1		1	.9%
Other (Low Volume)	0	0	36	0	36	35.6%
TOTAL	23	16	58	4	101	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4	3	10	0	17	16.8%
Second	2	0	10	0	12	11.9%
Third	12	9	20	4	45	44.6%
Fourth	5	4	18	0	27	26.7%

ALASKA COURTS
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL POSITIONS
AS OF June 30, 1982

LOCATION	POSITIONS BY RANGE					% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
	BELOW 10	10 THROUGH 12	13 THROUGH 16	OVER 16	TOTAL	
Anchorage	31	93	30	8	162	48.3%
Barrow	2	1	1	0	4	1.2%
Bethel	1	3	1	0	5	1.5%
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0	0	-
Fairbanks	8	44	10	5	67	20.0%
Glenallen	1	1	0	0	2	.6%
Haines	0	1	0	0	1	.3%
Homer	1	2	0	0	3	.9%
Juneau	2	10	5	2	19	5.7%
Kenai	2	8	2	1	13	3.9%
Ketchikan	1	7	2	1	11	3.3%
Kotzebue	4	2	0	0	6	1.8%
Kodiak	2	4	2	0	8	2.4%
Nome	1	5	1	0	7	2.1%
Palmer	0	3	1	1	5	1.5%
Seward	1	1	0	0	2	.6%
Sitka	1	3	1	0	5	1.5%
Tok	0	1	0	0	1	.3%
Valdez	1	2	0	0	3	.9%
Wrangell	1	0	0	0	1	.3%
Petersburg	0	1	0	0	1	.3%
Other (Low Volume)	8	1	0	0	9	2.7%
TOTAL	68	193	56	18	335	100 %

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	5	22	8	3	38	11.3%
Second	5	7	1	0	13	3.9%
Third	43	115	35	10	203	60.6%
Fourth	15	49	12	5	81	24.2%

ALASKA COURTS
OPERATING COSTS
(THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

LOCATION	PERSONNEL	OTHER	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	DOLLAR COST PER CASE FILED	
					ALL FILINGS	LESS TRAFFIC FILINGS
Anchorage	7,319.0	1,996.7	9,315.7	40.3		
Barrow	108.6	213.2	321.8	1.4		
Bethel	383.8	381.4	765.2	3.3		
Delta Junction	31.8	23.7	55.5	.2		
Fairbanks	3,412.4	947.6	4,360.0	18.8		
Glenallen	N/A	N/A	N/A	-		
Haines	N/A	N/A	N/A	-		
Homer	208.1	94.7	302.8	1.3		
Juneau	1,026.1	375.6	1,401.7	6.1		
Kenai	621.5	223.6	845.1	3.7		
Ketchikan	609.1	205.3	814.4	3.5		
Kotzebue	350.9	49.8	400.7	1.7		
Kodiak	426.0	138.5	564.5	2.4		
Nome	397.0	181.5	578.5	2.5		
Palmer	212.1	145.8	357.9	1.5		
Seward	105.7	39.0	144.7	.6		
Sitka	334.1	73.7	407.8	1.8		
Tok	74.6	80.1	154.7	.7		
Valdez	210.8	34.7	245.5	1.1		
Wrangell	177.2	49.0	226.2	1.0		
Petersburg	65.1	39.9	105.0	.5		
Other (Low Volume)	1,139.8	632.5	1,772.3	7.6		
TOTAL	17,213.7	5,926.3	23,140.0	100		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2,398.4	794.9	3,193.3	13.8		
Second	985.9	494.5	1,480.4	6.4		
Third	9,562.4	3,027.1	12,589.5	54.4		
Fourth	4,267.0	1,609.8	5,876.8	25.4		

ALASKA COURTS
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, COSTS AND JUDGES

LOCATION	PERCENTAGE OF STATEWIDE				
	POPULATION	OPERATING COSTS	FTE JUDGES	CASE FILINGS	CASE DISPOSITION
Anchorage	42.8	40.3	26.7	49.9	48.9
Barrow	1.7	1.4	.9	.6	.5
Bethel	3.1	3.3	1.9	1.2	1.1
Delta Junction	1.2	.2	.9	.4	.4
Fairbanks	13.8	18.8	8.9	15.5	15.9
Glenallen	.1		.9	.6	.6
Haines	.4		.9	.2	.2
Homer	.6	1.3	.9	1.7	1.7
Juneau	4.9	6.1	2.9	6.4	6.8
Kenai	4.9	3.7	1.9	4.8	4.9
Ketchikan	2.7	3.5	1.9	2.8	2.9
Kotzebue	.8	1.7	1.9	.7	.7
Kodiak	2.3	2.4	1.9	2.4	2.5
Nome	1.4	2.5	1.9	.9	.9
Palmer	4.5	1.5	.9	3.9	3.9
Seward	.7	.6	.9	1.3	1.4
Sitka	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.6
Tok	.1	.7	.9	.6	.6
Valdez	1.4	1.1	.9	.7	.7
Wrangell	.6	1.0	1.9	.5	.5
Petersburg	.8	.5	.9	.2	.3
Other (Low Volume)	9.0	7.6	35.6	3.0	2.9
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	13.3	13.8	16.8	12.3	12.7
Second	2.9	6.4	11.9	1.8	1.7
Third	61.4	54.4	44.6	66.9	66.2
Fourth	22.4	25.4	26.7	19.0	17.8

SUPERIOR COURT

SUPERIOR COURT - CASELOAD FY 82

FY 82 statistics reflect a 23% increase from FY 81 in superior court caseloads. This percentage change in workload was not uniform across the state. Superior courts reporting significant increases in caseloads included Anchorage (+37%), Barrow (+127%), Fairbanks (+14%), Juneau (+10%), Kenai (+9%) and Ketchikan (+8%). Courts reporting significant decreases in caseloads included Kodiak (-15%), Kotzebue (-17%), Nome (-27%) and Sitka (-9%).

All superior courts except Nome and Kodiak reported increases in case dispositions during the year. Barrow, Bethel, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kotzebue and Sitka reported increases over 10% in case dispositions while Nome and Kodiak reported decreases 21% and 17% respectively.

Felony Cases

The number of felony case filings increased in roughly half of the superior courts. Anchorage, Barrow, Fairbanks, Juneau and Kenai all reported felony filing increases in excess of 15% from FY 81 while Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome and Sitka reported decreases exceeding 20%.

Felony case dispositions increased in all courts except Ketchikan and Nome. Statewide, the superior courts disposed of 56% more felony cases during FY 82 than in FY 81.

Fifty-three percent of all felony cases filed during FY 82 carried a primary charge involving either violence or drugs whereas in prior years property related offenses have represented over half of all felony filings.

Domestic Relations Cases

Domestic relations case filings increased by 28% over FY 81 levels. This increase is attributable to a doubling of the number of reciprocal support cases filed combined with increasing numbers of domestic violence case filings.

Overall, domestic relations matters accounted for 47% of the statewide superior court workload. Anchorage (+39%), Fairbanks (+19%), Kenai (+25%), Ketchikan (+35%) and Kotzebue (+47%) all reported significant increases in domestic relations filings for FY 82. In all of these courts, increases in reciprocal support and domestic violence cases accounted for the bulk of the increases.

Probate Cases

Statewide, probate case filings increased 61% over FY 81 levels. All categories of probate cases (which are adoptions, estates, sanity, guardianship, probate waiver, protective proceedings and other) except protective proceedings increased significantly over FY 81 levels.

Sanity and guardianship filings increased by 187% and 322% respectively. This doubling and tripling of filings in these types of probate cases are directly related to legislation changing mental health procedures enacted in October 1981 and guardianship proceedings enacted in January 1982.

Other Civil Cases

Other civil case filings (civil damages, administrative review, debts, contracts and notes, housing and real estate matters) increased statewide by 8% in FY 82. In FY 81, domestic violence cases filed in the first half of 1981 were counted in this category. Therefore, it is quite significant that this category increased by 8% even though all domestic violence cases were removed from this category in FY 82. Other civil cases represent 21% of the superior court workload.

Children's Matters

Filings of children's matters in superior courts decreased by 3% from FY 81 levels. This is the third year of minimal declines in children's matters filings. It is interesting to note that whereas drug and violence oriented offenses constituted over half of the adult court felony caseload, only 25% of the children's matters caseload involve drugs or violence. Over 60% of all delinquency petitions allege property offenses. Approximately 15% of all children's matters filed involve petitions for children in need of aid (non-delinquency cases).

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY COURT

1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE 1978 to FY81/82	% INCREASE FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	7,810	7,587	7,696	10,552	+35	+37
Barrow	62	106	82	186	+200	+127
Bethel	268	322	399	380	+42	-5
Fairbanks	2,742	2,542	2,522	2,864	+4	+14
Juneau	768	674	844	932	+21	+10
Kenai	576	635	693	758	+32	+9
Ketchikan	638	534	693	749	+17	+8
Kodiak	434	473	408	346	-20	-15
Kotzebue	-	-	228	190	-	-17
Nome	307	311	434	318	+4	-27
Sitka	251	308	317	290	+16	-9
TOTAL	13,856	13,492	14,316	17,565	+27	+23

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,657	1,516	1,854	1,971	+19	+6
Second	307	311	662	508	+65	-23
Third	8,820	8,695	8,797	11,656	+32	+32
Fourth	3,072	2,970	3,003	3,430	+12	+14

Calendar Year 1978 - 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY81/82

COURT	CRIMINAL		CIVIL			CHIL-DREN'S MATTERS	TOTAL
	FELONY	OTHER	PROBATE	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	OTHER		
Anchorage	480	158	1,833	5,180	2,377	524	10,552
Barrow	34	1	15	90	23	23	186
Bethel	91	25	43	117	37	67	380
Fairbanks	324	82	389	1,295	568	206	2,864
Juneau	79	7	118	416	246	66	932
Kenai	95	66	49	341	126	81	758
Ketchikan	84	3	84	355	94	129	749
Kodiak	45	9	36	158	66	32	346
Kotzebue	20	6	13	87	13	51	190
Nome	60	39	64	81	34	40	318
Sitka	5	1	51	137	45	51	290
TOTAL	1,317	397	2,695	8,257	3,629	1,270	17,565
% OF TOTAL	7%	2%	15%	47%	21%	7%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	168	11	253	908	385	246	1,971
Second	80	45	77	168	47	91	508
Third	620	233	1,918	5,679	2,569	637	11,656
Fourth	449	108	447	1,502	628	296	3,430

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	6,687	6,599	8,413	8,888	+33	+6
Barrow	54	72	37	130	+141	+251
Bethel	280	249	267	335	+20	+25
Fairbanks	2,891	2,519	2,116	2,284	-21	+8
Juneau	676	579	642	755	+12	+18
Kenai	519	547	601	661	+27	+10
Ketchikan	554	582	535	625	+13	+17
Kodiak	401	394	368	307	-23	-17
Kotzebue	-	-	75	187	-	+149
Nome	251	239	373	295	+17	-21
Sitka	195	254	192	213	+9	+11
TOTAL	12,508	12,038	13,619	14,680	+17	+8

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,425	1,415	1,369	1,593	+12	+16
Second	251	239	448	482	+92	+8
Third	7,607	7,544	9,382	9,856	+30	+5
Fourth	3,225	2,840	2,420	2,749	-15	+14

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July-June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
FILINGS

1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE 1978 to FY 81/82	% INCREASE FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	261	281	413	480	+84	+16
Barrow	12	13	22	34	+183	+55
Bethel	58	47	86	91	+57	+6
Fairbanks	167	133	240	324	+94	+35
Juneau	63	31	50	79	+25	+58
Kenai	80	51	81	95	+19	+17
Ketchikan	39	46	107	84	+115	-21
Kodiak	48	46	58	45	-6	-22
Kotzebue	-	-	39	20	-	-49
Nome	37	31	90	60	+62	-33
Sitka	13	12	8	5	-62	-38
TOTAL	778	691	1,194	1,317	+69	+10

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	115	89	165	168	+46	+2
Second	37	31	129	80	+116	-38
Third	389	378	552	620	+59	+12
Fourth	237	193	348	449	+89	+29

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July-June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
# COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 81/82

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	
Anchorage	147	206	29	67	31	480
Barrow	18	9	1	4	2	34
Bethel	57	18	3	3	10	91
Fairbanks	130	111	19	52	12	324
Juneau	35	26	5	12	1	79
Kenai	37	24	9	15	10	95
Ketchikan	34	25	3	18	4	84
Kodiak	14	21	2	5	3	45
Kotzebue	8	8	0	0	4	20
Nome	27	24	3	5	1	60
Sitka	3	-	-	2	-	5
TOTAL	510	472	74	183	78	1,317
% OF TOTAL	39%	36%	5%	14%	6%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	72	51	8	32	5	168
Second	35	32	3	5	5	80
Third	198	251	40	87	44	620
Fourth	205	138	23	59	24	449

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS

1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE 1978 to FY 81/82	% INCREASE FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	302	315	269	532	+76	+98
Barrow	11	13	8	39	+255	+388
Bethel	60	42	53	87	+45	+64
Fairbanks	251	122	142	199	-21	+40
Juneau	71	54	50	71	-	+42
Kenai	73	54	63	117	+60	+86
Ketchikan	35	66	72	48	+37	-33
Kodiak	45	43	53	61	+36	+15
Kotzebue	-	-	16	25	-	+56
Nome	42	32	74	70	+67	-4
Sitka	15	10	2	5	-67	+150
TOTAL	905	751	802	1,254	+39	+56

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	121	130	124	124	+2	-
Second	42	32	90	95	+126	+6
Third	420	412	385	710	+69	+84
Fourth	322	177	203	325	+1	+60

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
FILINGS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	238	204	168	158	-34	-7
Barrow	7	3	0	1	-86	-
Bethel	11	17	38	25	+127	-34
Fairbanks	63	64	51	82	+30	+61
Juneau	16	12	8	7	-56	-12
Kenai	16	28	35	66	+312	+89
Ketchikan	8	10	3	3	-62	-
Kodiak	43	29	10	9	-79	-10
Kotzebue	-	-	5	6	-	+20
Nome	7	13	43	39	+457	-9
Sitka	3	3	2	1	-67	-50
TOTAL	412	383	363	397	-4	+9

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	27	25	13	11	-59	-15
Second	7	13	48	45	+543	-6
Third	297	261	213	233	-22	+9
Fourth	81	84	89	108	+33	+21

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (June - July)

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
FILINGS

1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	1,045	999	777*	1,833	+75	+136
Barrow	1	20	3	15	+1400	+400
Bethel	57	46	45	43	-25	-4
Fairbanks	304	321	341	389	+28	+14
Juneau	97	72	105	118	+22	+12
Kenai	44	65	61	49	+11	-20
Ketchikan	77	66	85	84	+9	-1
Kodiak	44	56	45	36	-18	-20
Kotzebue	-	-	64	13	-	-80
Nome	65	57	65	64	-2	-2
Sitka	35	46	79	51	+46	-35
TOTAL	1,769	1,748	1,670	2,695	+52	+61

*Not All Adoptions & Sanity Cases Being Reported.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	209	184	269	253	+21	-6
Second	65	57	129	77	+18	-40
Third	1,133	1,120	883	1,918	+69	+117
Fourth	362	287	389	447	+23	+15

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 81/82

COURT	CASE TYPE							TOTAL
	ADOPTION	ESTATES	SANITY	GUARDIANSHIP	PROBATE WAIVER	PROTECTIVE	OTHER	
Anchorage	399	619	550	68	84	90	23	1,833
Barrow	13	-	2	-	-	-	-	15
Bethel	18	17	7	1	-	-	-	43
Fairbanks	132	131	68	1	-	40	17	389
Juneau	42	47	17	1	-	9	2	118
Kenai	18	16	7	1	-	7	-	49
Ketchikan	25	45	10	2	-	-	2	84
Kodiak	13	14	6	-		2	1	36
Kotzebue	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	13
Nome	12	29	21	-	-	2	-	64
Sitka	8	25	7	2	0	1	8	51
TOTAL	689	947	695	76	84	151	53	2,695
% OF TOTAL	25%	35%	26%	3%	3%	6%	2%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	75	117	34	5	-	10	12	253
Second	21	33	21	-	-	2	-	77
Third	430	649	563	69	84	99	24	1,918
Fourth	163	148	77	2	-	40	17	447

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	1,035	956	392*	1,679	+62	+328
Barrow	3	18	1	10	+233	+900
Bethel	49	29	41	42	-14	+2
Fairbanks	312	333	282	321	+3	+14
Juneau	78	51	62	60	-23	-3
Kenai	38	38	40	41	+8	+3
Ketchikan	51	53	55	67	+31	+22
Kodiak	29	38	24	27	-7	+12
Kotzebue	-	-	8	21	-	+162
Nome	49	34	85	79	+61	-7
Sitka	25	61	41	27	+8	-34
TOTAL	1,669	1,611	1,031	2,374	+42	+130

*Anchorage has not been reporting all Adoption & Sanity Cases

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	154	165	158	154	-	-3
Second	49	34	93	100	+104	+8
Third	1,102	1,032	456	1,747	+58	+283
Fourth	364	380	324	373	+2	+15

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 - 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
FILINGS

1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	3,379	3,155	3,737	5,180	+53	+39
Barrow	4	30	29	90	+2150	+210
Bethel	39	63	127	117	+200	-8
Fairbanks	1,046	996	1,091	1,295	+24	+19
Juneau	309	312	401	416	+35	+4
Kenai	251	253	272	341	+36	+25
Ketchikan	254	232	263	355	+40	+35
Kodiak	176	200	204	158	-10	-23
Kotzebue	-	-	59	87	-	+47
Nome	92	74	106	81	-12	-24
Sitka	118	130	140	137	+16	-2
TOTAL	5,668	5,445	6,429	8,257	+46	+28

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	681	674	804	908	+33	+13
Second	92	74	165	168	+83	+2
Third	3,806	3,608	4,213	5,679	+49	+35
Fourth	1,089	1,089	1,247	1,502	+38	+20

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979

Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 81/82

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	DIVORCE	DISS. OF MARRIAGE	RECIPROCAL SUPPORT	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	OTHER	
Anchorage	1,295	1,541	1,643	539	162	5,180
Barrow	25	14	13	27	11	90
Bethel	14	13	49	37	4	117
Fairbanks	325	486	266	170	48	1,295
Juneau	271	3	79	50	13	416
Kenai	171	33	75	53	9	341
Ketchikan	190	-	105	51	9	355
Kodiak	89	-	43	23	3	158
Kotzebue	22	-	31	31	3	87
Nome	29	3	33	7	9	81
Sitka	76	1	38	14	8	137
TOTAL	2,507	2,094	2,375	1,002	279	8,257
% OF TOTAL	30%	25%	29%	12%	3%	100%

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	537	4	222	115	30	908
Second	51	3	64	38	12	168
Third	1,555	1,574	1,761	615	174	5,679
Fourth	364	513	328	234	63	1,502

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
DISPOSITIONS

1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	3,202	3,014	4,044	4,240	+32	+5
Barrow	8	15	15	70	+775	+367
Bethel	45	49	86	110	+144	+28
Fairbanks	1,190	1,030	976	1,110	-7	+14
Juneau	292	276	320	371	+27	+16
Kenai	250	224	275	276	+10	-
Ketchikan	254	235	256	362	+43	+41
Kodiak	187	199	193	129	-31	-33
Kotzebue	-	-	17	76	-	+347
Nome	85	55	105	70	-18	-33
Sitka	111	120	100	126	+14	+26
TOTAL	5,624	5,217	6,387	6,940	+23	+9

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	657	631	676	859	+31	+27
Second	85	55	122	146	+72	+20
Third	3,639	3,437	4,512	4,645	+28	+3
Fourth	1,243	1,094	1,077	1,290	+4	+20

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 - 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	2,494	2,476	2,156	2,377	-5	+10
Barrow	2	6	4	23	+1050	+475
Bethel	48	52	38	37	-23	-3
Fairbanks	837	726	516	568	-32	+10
Juneau	211	206	203	246	+17	+21
Kenai	103	134	134	126	+22	-6
Ketchikan	76	83	82	94	+24	+15
Kodiak	73	87	72	66	-10	-8
Kotzebue	-	-	29	13	-	-55
Nome	53	44	60	34	-36	-43
Sitka	36	59	52	45	+25	-14
TOTAL	3,933	3,873	3,346	3,629	-8	+8

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	323	348	337	385	+19	+14
Second	53	44	89	47	-11	-47
Third	2,670	2,697	2,362	2,569	-4	+9
Fourth	887	784	558	628	-29	+13

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 81/82 .

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	CIVIL DAMAGE	ADMINI-STRATIVE REVIEW	GENERAL		OTHER	
Anchorage	677	133	1,482		85	2,377
Barrow	15	1	2		5	23
Bethel	23	1	11		2	37
Fairbanks	111	38	357		62	568
Juneau	39	29	166		12	246
Kenai	36	2	54		34	126
Ketchikan	39	5	44		6	94
Kodiak	20	0	40		6	66
Kotzebue	5	-	6		2	13
Nome	3	4	22		5	34
Sitka	16	1	21		7	45
TOTAL	984	214	2,205		226	3,629
% OF TOTAL	27%	6%	61%		6%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	94	35	231		25	385
Second	8	4	28		7	47
Third	733	135	1,576		125	2,569
Fourth	149	40	370		69	628

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	1,671	1,759	3,329	2,019	+21	-39
Barrow	0	3	2	9	-	+350
Bethel	24	35	12	23	-4	+92
Fairbanks	856	759	492	567	-34	+15
Juneau	176	163	151	216	+23	+43
Kenai	91	102	121	143	+57	+18
Ketchikan	64	70	52	75	+17	+44
Kodiak	64	50	74	65	+2	-12
Kotzebue	-	-	5	18	-	+260
Nome	33	58	74	26	-21	-65
Sitka	28	40	35	39	+39	+11
TOTAL	3,007	3,039	4,347	3,200	+6	-26

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	268	273	238	330	+23	+39
Second	33	58	79	44	+33	-44
Third	1,826	1,911	3,524	2,227	+22	-37
Fourth	880	797	506	599	-32	+18

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FILINGS

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage *	393	472	445	524	+33	+18
Barrow	36	34	24	23	-36	-4
Bethel	55	97	65	67	+22	+3
Fairbanks *	325	302	283	206	-37	-27
Juneau	72	41	77	66	-8	-14
Kenai *	82	104	110	81	-1	-26
Ketchikan*	184	97	153	129	-30	-16
Kodiak	50	55	19	32	-36	+68
Kotzebue	-	-	32	51	-	+59
Nome *	53	92	70	40	-25	-43
Sitka *	46	58	36	51	+11	+42
TOTAL	1,296	1,352	1,314	1,270	-2	-3

*As Reported by the Intake Office

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	302	196	266	246	-19	-8
Second	53	92	102	91	+72	-11
Third	525	631	574	637	+21	+11
Fourth	416	433	372	296	-29	-20

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 81/82

% of Formal Petition By Category

COURT	DELINQUENCY				CHILD IN NEED OF AID	TOTAL
	VIOLENCE	DRUGS/ ALCOHOL	PROPERTY	TOTAL		
Anchorage	5%	15%	68%	88%	12%	100%
Barrow	-	-	-	43%	57%	100%
Bethel	-	-	-	39%	61%	100%
Fairbanks	7%	24%	61%	92%	8%	100%
Juneau	-	-	-	59%	41%	100%
Kenai	3%	33%	57%	93%	7%	100%
Ketchikan	3%	11%	25%	39%	61%	100%
Kodiak	-	-	-	56%	44%	100%
Kotzebue	-	-	-	61%	39%	100%
Nome	2%	39%	39%	80%	20%	100%
Sitka	14%	14%	64%	92%	8%	100%
TOTAL	5%	20%	62%	87%	13%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	6%	10%	31%	47%	53%	100%
Second	2%	38%	38%	78%	22%	100%
Third	4%	19%	66%	89%	11%	100%
Fourth	7%	23%	60%	90%	10%	100%

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FORMAL DISPOSITIONS

FY 81/82

COURT	PROBATION	INSTITUTION-ALIZED	TERMINATION PARENTAL RIGHTS	DISMISSED	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	332	31	10	42	3	418
Barrow	1	-	-	1	-	2
Bethel	29	5	-	28	11	73
Fairbanks	51	36	-	-	-	87
Juneau	20	9	-	6	2	37
Kenai	65	18	-	1	-	84
Ketchikan	10	7	1	35	20	73
Kodiak	6	5	1	2	11	25
Kotzebue	24	7	-	14	2	47
Nome	22	8	-	13	7	50
Sitka	4	-	-	-	12	16
TOTAL	564	126	12	142	68	912

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	34	16	1	41	34	126
Second	46	15	-	27	9	97
Third	403	54	11	45	14	527
Fourth	81	41	-	29	11	162

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY 81/82	FY 80/81 to FY 81/82
Anchorage	347	337	379	418	+20	+10
Barrow	31	23	11	2	-94	-82
Bethel	89	84	75	73	-18	-3
Fairbanks	228	239	224	87	-62	-61
Juneau	53	27	59	37	-30	-37
Kenai	62	105	102	84	+35	-18
Ketchikan	145	152	100	73	-50	-27
Kodiak	57	45	24	25	-56	+4
Kotzebue	-	-	29	47	-	+62
Nome	37	52	35	50	+35	+43
Sitka	14	21	14	16	+14	+14
TOTAL	1,063	1,085	1,052	912	-14	-13

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	212	200	173	126	-41	-27
Second	37	52	64	97	+162	+52
Third	466	487	505	527	+13	+4
Fourth	348	346	310	162	-53	-48

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979
Fiscal Year 80/81 & 81/82 (July - June)

DISTRICT COURT
(Higher Volume)

HIGH VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS - CASELOAD FY 82

District court statistics are maintained in two components - high and low volume courts. There are approximately 20 high volume courts (including all district court/magistrate sites located with a superior court). There are approximately 40 magistrates in locations that are identified as lower volume courts.

Courts designated "lower volume" report significantly less case related data to administration than do high volume courts and therefore cannot be listed statistically with higher volume courts even though their caseloads may increase. Magistrate posts at Healy and Delta Junction would have been included within the higher volume court listings this year were it not for this situation.

Filings in higher volume district courts decreased by 12% over FY 81 levels. Dispositions decreased by 15%. As indicated earlier in this report, these figures result from a significant decrease in traffic citation filings statewide (-20%). Non-traffic case filings in high volume district courts increased by 8% over FY 81 while non-traffic case dispositions increased by 1%. The decrease in traffic citation workload results from fewer citations being issued in many locations, but primarily from the creation of city violations bureaus in several locations which now process local parking tickets previously processed by the court system.

Felony Cases

Felony case filings in high volume district courts decreased by 2% from FY 81 levels. As with superior court felony filings, cases where the primary charge involved violence or drugs accounted for half of all felony filings.

Misdemeanor Cases

Misdemeanor case filings increased by 13% over FY 81 levels. Several courts, including Barrow (+98%), Cordova (+29%), Fairbanks (+53%), Homer (+30%), Juneau (+23%), Kotzebue (+24%), Palmer (+38%) and Seward (+36%) reported very heavy increases in misdemeanor filings. These very large increases in filings were statistically offset by Anchorage (which has one third of all misdemeanor filings in the state) reporting only an 8% increase.

Traffic offenses constitute the largest category of misdemeanor case filings. These offenses include driving while intoxicated (DWI), reckless/negligent driving, driving on a revoked/suspended license, and several accident related traffic offenses. The bulk of the category consists of driving while intoxicated. The traffic category of misdemeanor case filings increased 29% from FY 81 levels.

Non-traffic cases involving alcohol or drugs constituted the other type of misdemeanor cases with a large increase in filings. This category showed an 80% increase over FY 81 levels. Most of this increase is due to the reclassification of the charge of marijuana possession from a civil to a criminal case as well as increased enforcement of alcohol/drug laws in many jurisdictions. Many sites showed a 50%+ increase in these types of filings in the last year.

Small Claims Cases

Small claims case filings increased by 12% over FY 81 levels. Half of the state's higher volume district courts reported small claims filings increases in excess of 20%. Barrow, Bethel, Ketchikan and Seward reported increases exceeding 80%.

Other Civil Cases

Other civil case filings (civil damages, debts, contracts and notes) showed a 2% increase in FY 82. As was the case last year, this figure is somewhat misleading in that many courts reported substantial increases in "other civil" filings which were statistically offset by decreases in some of the larger courts.

Traffic Cases

Because traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until their final disposition, filings for traffic matters generally understate the actual workload. Consequently, wherever filing data is required to assess the overall workload of the district courts, traffic disposition data have been substituted for traffic filing data. This is true of all tables and charts in this report.

All higher volume district courts in the state, with the exception of Fairbanks, reported significant decreases in traffic case filings/dispositions in FY 82. Numerically, the largest decrease was reported in Juneau (a decrease of almost 9,000 tickets). This major decrease in Juneau was due to the creation of a city violations bureau in Juneau which now handles all parking ticket matters previously filed with the court. Fairbanks reported a 30% increase in traffic filings in the last year. These filings were apparently the product of increased traffic enforcement in the Fairbanks area.

DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY 80/81*	FY 81/82*	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	54,536	49,787	63,846	59,794	+10	-6
Barrow	352	406	304	612	+74	+101
Bethel	1,665	1,703	1,426	1,335	-20	-6
Cordova	391	742	676	698	+79	+3
Dillingham	280	274	836	500	+79	-40
Fairbanks	19,015	14,224	15,121	19,001	-	+26
Glennallen	1,487	1,169	1,307	899	-40	-31
Homer	2,163	2,534	3,388	2,354	+9	-31
Juneau	10,204	14,414	16,687	8,155	-20	-51
Kenai	5,873	5,725	7,948	5,998	+2	-25
Ketchikan	3,563	3,594	3,713	3,175	-11	-14
Kodiak	2,730	2,690	3,132	3,034	+11	-3
Kotzebue	425	683	730	804	+89	+10
Nome	591	771	1,045	895	+52	-14
Palmer	3,702	3,455	6,646	5,571	+50	-16
Petersburg	440	513	602	319	-27	-47
Seward	2,810	1,630	2,709	1,884	-33	-30
Sitka	1,585	1,495	2,110	2,008	+27	-5
Tok	462	330	1,164	804	+74	-31
Unalaska	120	322	600	517	+331	-14
Valdez	1,317	1,298	1,218	997	-24	-18
Wrangell	871	844	1,194	740	-15	-38
TOTAL	114,582	108,603	136,402	120,094	+5	-12

*Traffic Dispositions used as Filings.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS
Calendar Year 1978 & 1979 - Fiscal Year 80/81-81/82 (July-June)

First	16,663	20,860	24,306	14,397	-14	-41
Second	1,016	1,454	1,775	1,699	+67	-4
Third	75,409	69,626	92,306	82,246	+9	-11
Fourth	21,494	16,663	18,015	21,752	+1	+21

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 81/82

COURT	CRIMINAL				CIVIL		TOTAL
	FELONY	MISDEMEANOR	OTHER CRIMINAL	TRAFFIC	SMALL CLAIMS	OTHER CIVIL	
Anchorage	634	7,847	1,431	41,720	5,306	2,856	59,794
Barrow	62	425	4	3	104	14	612
Bethel	124	565	76	233	321	16	1,335
Cordova	34	297	1	249	63	54	698
Dillingham	33	315	-	38	72	42	500
Fairbanks	246	4,025	176	13,235	767	552	19,001
Glennallen	12	163	5	474	224	21	899
Homer	17	533	2	1,379	201	222	2,354
Juneau	129	1,654	13	4,862	1,273	224	8,155
Kenai	79	1,268	61	4,106	405	79	5,998
Ketchikan	149	1,189	9	1,451	328	49	3,175
Kodiak	99	1,011	79	1,555	240	50	3,034
Kotzebue	31	640	9	2	119	3	804
Nome	17	443	126	211	81	17	895
Palmer	79	1,059	98	3,085	841	409	5,571
Petersburg	10	115	-	168	19	7	319
Seward	27	317	21	1,401	80	38	1,884
Sitka	58	686	3	977	241	43	2,008
Tok	9	70	15	693	10	7	804
Unalaska	24	233	-	166	34	60	517
Valdez	11	196	-	569	118	103	997
Wrangell	28	306	12	285	75	34	740
TOTAL	1,912	23,357	2,141	76,862	10,922	4,900	120,094
% OF TOTAL	2%	19%	2%	64%	9%	4%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	374	3,950	37	7,743	1,936	357	14,397
Second	48	1,083	135	213	200	20	1,699
Third	1,049	13,239	1,698	54,742	7,584	3,934	82,246
Fourth	441	5,085	271	14,164	1,202	589	21,752

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE 1978 to FY81/82	% INCREASE FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	52,333	48,508	62,675	54,062	+3	-14
Barrow	332	340	229	564	+70	+146
Bethel	1,646	1,629	1,186	1,145	-30	-3
Cordova	371	706	663	643	+141	-3
Dillingham	267	237	726	442	+66	-39
Fairbanks	18,830	13,670	13,667	18,198	-3	+33
Glennallen	1,529	1,141	1,275	803	-47	-37
Homer	2,059	2,426	3,380	2,150	+4	-36
Juneau	10,070	14,155	15,840	7,971	-21	-50
Kenai	5,733	5,502	7,449	5,604	-2	-25
Ketchikan	3,499	3,524	3,484	3,071	-12	-12
Kodiak	2,777	2,651	2,864	2,894	+4	+1
Kotzebue	344	560	624	705	+105	+13
Nome	645	862	852	811	+26	-5
Palmer	3,653	3,245	6,085	4,991	+40	-18
Petersburg	421	467	571	323	-23	-43
Seward	2,812	1,643	2,645	1,807	-36	-32
Sitka	1,562	1,434	1,865	1,904	+22	+2
Tok	462	306	1,104	802	+74	-27
Unalaska	114	274	451	497	+336	+10
Valdez	1,340	1,279	1,158	958	-29	-17
Wrangell	852	797	1,088	684	-20	-37
TOTAL	111,651	105,356	129,881	111,029	-1	-15

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979 Fiscal Year (July - June) 80/81-81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	16,404	20,377	22,848	13,953	-15	-39
Second	989	1,422	1,476	1,516	+53	+3
Third	72,988	67,612	89,371	74,851	+3	-16
Fourth	21,270	15,945	16,185	20,709	-3	+28

DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS
NON-TRAFFIC
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	18,577	17,383	16,784	18,074	-3	+8
Barrow	339	396	292	609	+80	+109
Bethel	1,369	1,513	1,127	1,102	-20	-2
Cordova	260	256	358	449	+73	+25
Dillingham	250	266	716	462	+85	-35
Fairbanks	4,386	4,592	4,937	5,766	+31	+17
Glennallen	469	366	373	425	-9	+14
Homer	766	857	757	975	+27	+29
Juneau	1,881	2,350	2,880	3,293	+75	+14
Kenai	1,648	1,875	1,915	1,892	+15	-1
Ketchikan	1,374	1,432	1,801	1,724	+25	-4
Kodiak	1,528	1,474	1,376	1,479	-3	+7
Kotzebue	424	683	686	802	+89	+17
Nome	401	599	728	684	+71	-6
Palmer	1,102	1,222	2,176	2,486	+126	+14
Petersburg	186	299	338	151	-19	-55
Seward	375	195	351	483	+29	+38
Sitka	680	783	1,123	1,031	+52	-8
Tok	171	146	147	111	-35	-24
Unalaska	120	278	479	351	+193	-27
Valdez	494	473	522	428	-13	-18
Wrangell	368	340	419	455	+24	+9
TOTAL	37,168	37,778	40,285	43,232	+16	+7

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81 & 81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4,489	5,204	6,561	6,654	+48	+1
Second	825	1,282	1,414	1,486	+80	+5
Third	25,589	24,645	25,807	27,504	+7	+7
Fourth	6,265	6,647	6,503	7,588	+21	+17

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
NON-TRAFFIC
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	16,374	16,104	15,613	12,342	-25	-21
Barrow	319	330	217	561	+76	+159
Bethel	1,350	1,439	887	912	-32	+3
Cordova	240	220	345	394	+64	+14
Dillingham	237	229	606	404	+70	-33
Fairbanks	4,201	4,038	3,483	4,963	+18	+42
Glennallen	511	338	341	329	-36	-4
Homer	662	749	749	771	+16	+3
Juneau	1,747	2,091	2,033	3,109	+78	+53
Kenai	1,508	1,652	1,416	1,498	-1	+6
Ketchikan	1,310	1,362	1,572	1,620	+24	+3
Kodiak	1,575	1,435	1,108	1,339	-15	+21
Kotzebue	343	560	580	703	+105	+21
Nome	455	690	535	600	+32	+12
Palmer	1,053	1,012	1,615	1,906	+81	+18
Petersburg	167	253	307	155	-7	-50
Seward	377	208	287	406	+8	+41
Sitka	657	722	878	927	+41	+6
Tok	171	122	87	109	-36	+25
Unalaska	114	230	330	331	+190	--
Valdez	517	454	462	389	-25	-16
Wrangell	349	293	313	399	+14	+27
TOTAL	34,237	34,531	33,764	34,167	--	+1

Calendar Year 1978-1979 Fiscal Year (July-June)80/81-81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4,230	4,721	5,103	6,210	+47	+22
Second	798	1,250	1,115	1,303	+63	+17
Third	23,168	22,631	22,872	20,109	-13	-12
Fourth	6,041	5,929	4,674	6,545	+8	+40

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
FILINGS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	499	545	636	634	+27	--
Barrow	27	19	53	62	+130	+17
Bethel	84	93	155	124	+48	-20
Cordova	30	8	11	34	+13	+209
Dillingham	19	33	36	33	+74	-8
Fairbanks	174	166	257	246	+41	-4
Glennallen	15	13	14	12	-20	-14
Homer	41	25	20	17	-59	-15
Juneau	72	67	98	129	+79	+32
Kenai	67	63	58	79	+18	+36
Ketchikan	94	103	106	149	+59	+41
Kodiak	85	152	134	99	+16	-26
Kotzebue	34	28	49	31	-9	-37
Nome	42	47	43	17	-60	-60
Palmer	43	87	68	79	+84	+16
Petersburg	12	13	19	10	-17	-47
Seward	51	6	44	27	-47	-39
Sitka	42	40	57	58	+38	+2
Tok	20	16	15	9	-55	-40
Unalaska	19	44	48	24	+26	-50
Valdez	19	14	23	11	-42	-52
Wrangell	16	22	12	28	+75	+133
TOTAL	1,505	1,604	1,956	1,912	+27	-2

Calendar Year 1978-1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81-81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	236	245	292	374	+58	+28
Second	76	75	92	48	-37	-48
Third	888	990	1,092	1,049	+18	-4
Fourth	305	294	480	441	+45	-8

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FELONY FILINGS
FY 81/82

COURT	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	180	278	24	64	88	634
Barrow	33	11	3	12	3	62
Bethel	66	29	5	18	6	124
Cordova	6	13	8	6	1	34
Dillingham	16	11	-	3	3	33
Fairbanks	96	77	19	39	15	246
Glennallen	7	3	-	2	-	12
Homer	6	8	-	3	-	17
Juneau	49	47	14	14	5	129
Kenai	29	31	5	6	8	79
Ketchikan	48	40	16	34	11	149
Kodiak	37	36	8	10	8	99
Kotzebue	12	12	-	4	3	31
Nome	8	4	-	4	1	17
Palmer	33	38	4	-	4	79
Petersburg	2	5	2	1	-	10
Seward	13	10	3	1	-	27
Sitka	10	8	3	35	2	58
Tok	5	2	1	-	1	9
Unalaska	15	3	1	5	-	24
Valdez	5	5	-	1	-	11
Wrangell	9	13	1	3	2	28
TOTAL	685	684	117	265	161	1,912
% OF TOTAL	36%	36%	6%	14%	8%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	118	113	36	87	20	374
Second	20	16	-	8	4	42
Third	347	436	53	101	112	1,049
Fourth	200	119	28	69	25	441

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	459	477	418	569	+24	+36
Barrow	34	11	24	57	+68	+138
Bethel	70	77	96	123	+76	+28
Cordova	23	3	9	27	+17	+200
Dillingham	14	27	26	32	+129	+23
Fairbanks	142	142	149	211	+49	+42
Glennallen	16	13	13	11	-31	-15
Homer	62	23	16	16	-74	--
Juneau	63	50	59	117	+86	+98
Kenai	49	55	36	75	+53	+108
Ketchikan	64	78	103	107	+67	+4
Kodiak	78	124	74	96	+23	+30
Kotzebue	28	20	21	22	-21	+5
Nome	45	37	33	16	-64	-52
Palmer	38	64	46	82	+116	+78
Petersburg	14	7	18	11	-21	-39
Seward	45	10	39	21	-54	-46
Sitka	31	29	43	48	+55	+12
Tok	24	14	8	10	-58	+25
Unalaska	17	35	40	29	+71	-27
Valdez	18	13	16	14	-22	-12
Wrangell	13	20	7	22	+69	+214
TOTAL	1,347	1,329	1,294	1,716	+27	+33

Calendar Year 1978-1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81-81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	185	184	230	305	+65	+33
Second	73	57	54	38	-48	-30
Third	819	844	733	972	+19	+33
Fourth	270	244	277	401	+49	+45

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
FILINGS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	9,330	7,234	7,289	7,847	-16	+8
Barrow	263	347	214	425	+61	+98
Bethel	1,051	1,136	701	565	-46	-19
Cordova	175	205	231	297	+70	+29
Dillingham	173	173	445	315	+82	-29
Fairbanks	2,503	2,577	2,634	4,025	+61	+53
Glennallen	196	135	157	163	-17	+4
Homer	359	418	409	533	+48	+30
Juneau	864	1,116	1,349	1,654	+91	+23
Kenai	961	1,095	1,149	1,268	+32	+10
Ketchikan	876	942	1,357	1,189	+36	-12
Kodiak	1,024	989	902	1,011	-1	+12
Kotzebue	257	480	515	640	+149	+24
Nome	175	310	476	443	+153	-7
Palmer	596	497	766	1,059	+78	+38
Petersburg	118	224	250	115	-3	-54
Seward	271	124	233	317	+17	+36
Sitka	461	545	757	686	+49	-9
Tok	114	86	87	70	-39	-20
Unalaska	100	229	344	233	+133	-32
Valdez	201	174	194	196	-2	+1
Wrangell	227	194	285	306	+35	+7
TOTAL	20,295	19,230	20,744	23,357	+15	+13

Calendar Year 1978 & 1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81 & 81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2,546	3,021	3,998	3,950	+55	-1
Second	432	790	991	1,083	+151	+9
Third	13,386	11,273	12,119	13,239	-1	+9
Fourth	3,931	4,146	3,636	5,085	+29	+40

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
COMPOSITION OF FY FILINGS
81/82

COURT	VIOLENCE	THEFT/ FRAUD	ENVIRONMENTAL	NUISANCE	ALCOHOL/ DRUGS	RESISTING THE LAW	VICE	TRAFFIC	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	933	1344	245	1388	295	154	172	3229	87	7847
Barrow	99	15	-	101	87	28	-	92	3	425
Bethel	158	40	82	119	46	13	-	103	4	565
Cordova	19	13	102	45	24	8	-	65	21	297
Dillingham	69	10	80	102	9	9	-	32	4	315
Fairbanks	303	582	226	529	551	48	5	1489	292	4025
Glennallen	20	30	60	18	-	1	-	30	4	163
Homer	42	31	166	31	26	8	-	205	24	533
Juneau	172	93	87	245	250	27	-	759	21	1654
Kenai	90	73	334	94	70	19	-	572	16	1268
Ketchikan	125	53	136	234	137	35	-	453	16	1189
Kodiak	93	127	277	168	56	10	-	266	14	1011
Kotzebue	137	21	27	138	101	12	-	159	45	640
Nome	117	81	25	78	75	3	-	63	1	443
Palmer	124	67	138	84	31	10	-	600	5	1059
Petersburg	8	20	35	21	7	3	-	19	2	115
Seward	56	25	54	46	31	6	-	96	3	317
Sitka	82	127	140	70	50	7	1	198	11	686
Tok	13	10	9	11	4	-	-	23	-	70
Unalaska	51	10	82	45	2	2	-	40	1	233
Valdez	21	6	74	15	20	-	4	55	1	196
Wrangell	22	12	87	48	28	8	-	101	-	306
TOTAL	2754	2790	2466	3630	1900	411	182	8649	575	23357
% OF TOTAL	12%	12%	11%	15%	8%	2%	1%	37%	2%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	409	305	485	618	472	80	1	1530	50	3950
Second	254	102	52	216	176	15	-	222	46	1083
Third	1518	1736	1612	2036	564	227	176	5190	180	13239
Fourth	573	647	317	760	688	89	5	1707	299	5085

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE 1978 to FY81/82	% INCREASE FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	9,540	7,973	5,873	7,593	-20	+29
Barrow	275	275	170	377	+37	+122
Bethel	1,058	1,135	629	535	-49	-15
Cordova	170	186	211	272	+60	+29
Dillingham	175	154	407	281	+61	-31
Fairbanks	2,490	2,365	2,178	3,548	+42	+63
Glennallen	222	137	153	123	-45	-20
Homer	370	427	381	417	+13	+9
Juneau	860	1,018	974	1,614	+87	+65
Kenai	973	1,002	990	763	-22	-23
Ketchikan	889	911	1,230	1,134	+28	-8
Kodiak	1,019	1,008	780	1,052	+3	+35
Kotzebue	260	432	475	607	+133	+28
Nome	265	302	431	406	+53	-6
Palmer	565	477	673	852	+51	+27
Petersburg	117	190	238	132	+13	-45
Seward	288	131	218	280	-3	+28
Sitka	514	495	624	677	+32	+8
Tok	113	86	61	84	-26	+38
Unalaska	96	190	254	244	+154	-4
Valdez	194	145	181	175	-10	-3
Wrangell	202	180	249	291	+44	+17
TOTAL	20,655	19,219	17,379	21,457	+4	+23

Calendar Year 1978-1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81-81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2,582	2,794	3,315	3,848	+49	+16
Second	525	734	906	1,013	+93	+12
Third	13,612	11,830	10,120	12,052	-11	+19
Fourth	3,936	3,861	3,038	4,544	+15	+50

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
FILINGS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	1,943	1,528	1,537	1,431	-26	-7
Barrow	7	7	2	4		
Bethel	104	90	97	76	-27	-22
Cordova	2	0	3	1		
Dillingham	3	1	17	-	-	-
Fairbanks	386	253	632	176	-54	-72
Glennallen	2	3	8	5		
Homer	14	7	10	2		
Juneau	50	26	85	13	-74	-85
Kenai	44	133	170	61	+39	-64
Ketchikan	79	100	92	9	-89	-90
Kodiak	168	100	50	79	-53	+58
Kotzebue	20	10	21	9	-55	-57
Nome	23	20	105	126	+448	+20
Palmer	51	22	101	98	+92	-3
Petersburg	13	9	2	-	-	-
Seward	1	1	19	21		+11
Sitka	50	75	24	3	-94	-88
Tok	31	15	17	15	-52	-12
Unalaska	1	5	4	-	-	-
Valdez	6	6	4	-	-	-
Wrangell	41	50	38	12	-71	-68
TOTAL	3,039	2,461	3,038	2,141	-30	-30

Failure to Satisfy, Probation Revocation, Transfer Cases, etc.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

Calendar Years 1978-1979 Fiscal Year 80/81-81/82

First	233	260	241	37	-84	-85
Second	43	30	126	135	+214	+7
Third	2,235	1,806	1,923	1,698	-24	-12
Fourth	528	365	748	271	-49	-64

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
FILINGS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	3,940	4,851	4,393	5,306	+35	+21
Barrow	42	23	18	104	+148	+478
Bethel	117	178	160	321	+174	+101
Cordova	27	18	53	63	+133	+19
Dillingham	53	56	206	72	+36	-65
Fairbanks	691	909	930	767	+11	-18
Glennallen	230	204	181	224	-3	+24
Homer	175	192	160	201	+15	+26
Juneau	715	946	1,071	1,273	+78	+19
Kenai	488	503	455	405	-17	-11
Ketchikan	256	213	182	328	+28	+80
Kodiak	225	193	213	240	+7	+13
Kotzebue	108	164	100	119	+10	+19
Nome	147	202	93	81	-45	-13
Palmer	326	423	931	841	+158	-10
Petersburg	37	48	59	19	-49	-68
Seward	47	62	43	80	+70	+86
Sitka	101	98	245	241	+139	-2
Tok	5	28	16	10	+100	-38
Unalaska	0	0	31	34	-	+10
Valdez	154	151	139	118	-23	-15
Wrangell	74	71	70	75	+1	+7
TOTAL	7,958	9,533	9,749	10,922	+37	+12

Calendar Year 1978-1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81-81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,183	1,376	1,627	1,936	+64	+19
Second	255	366	193	200	-22	+4
Third	5,665	6,653	6,805	7,584	+33	+11
Fourth	855	1,138	1,124	1,202	+41	+7

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	2,719	4,376	6,674	2,392	-12	-64
Barrow	6	37	21	117	+1850	+457
Bethel	116	145	153	236	+103	+54
Cordova	20	14	76	56	+180	-26
Dillingham	43	47	170	77	+79	-55
Fairbanks	594	739	642	712	+20	+11
Glennallen	247	177	164	179	-28	+9
Homer	113	193	187	177	+57	-5
Juneau	631	820	810	1,141	+81	+41
Kenai	360	410	324	585	+63	+81
Ketchikan	239	228	183	338	+41	+85
Kodiak	272	189	199	148	-46	-26
Kotzebue	37	98	84	74	+100	-12
Nome	114	316	62	168	+47	+171
Palmer	368	294	690	678	+84	-2
Petersburg	25	47	48	11	-56	-78
Seward	40	62	22	73	+83	+232
Sitka	61	96	176	170	+179	-3
Tok	5	15	16	8	+60	-50
Unalaska	0	0	11	25	-	+127
Valdez	166	186	144	114	-31	-21
Wrangell	92	60	46	75	-18	+63
TOTAL	6,268	8,549	10,902	7,554	+21	-31

Calendar Year 1978&1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81 & 81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,048	1,251	1,263	1,735	+66	+37
Second	151	414	146	242	+60	+66
Third	4,348	5,948	8,661	4,504	+4	-48
Fourth	721	936	832	1,073	+49	+29

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	2,865	3,225	2,929	2,856	--	-3
Barrow	0	0	5	14	--	
Bethel	13	16	14	16	+23	+14
Cordova	26	25	60	54	+108	-10
Dillingham	2	3	12	42	+2000	+250
Fairbanks	632	687	484	552	-13	+14
Glennallen	26	11	13	21	-19	+62
Homer	177	215	158	222	+25	+41
Juneau	180	195	277	224	+24	-19
Kenai	88	81	83	79	-10	-5
Ketchikan	69	74	64	49	-29	-23
Kodiak	26	40	77	50	+92	-35
Kotzebue	5	1	1	3		
Nome	14	20	11	17		
Palmer	86	193	310	409	+376	+32
Petersburg	6	5	8	7		
Seward	5	2	12	38	+660	+217
Sitka	26	25	40	43	+65	+8
Tok	1	1	12	7		
Unalaska	0	0	52	60	--	+15
Valdez	114	128	162	103	-10	-36
Wrangell	10	3	14	34	+240	+143
TOTAL	4,371	4,950	4,798	4,900	+12	+2

Civil Damage, Admin. Review, General Civil

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

Calendar Year 1978-1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81-81/82

First	291	302	403	357	+23	-11
Second	19	21	12	20	+5	+67
Third	3,415	3,923	3,868	3,934	+15	+2
Fourth	646	704	515	589	-9	+14

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 81/82

COURT	CIVIL DAMAGE	GENERAL	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	416	1,462	978	2,856
Barrow	-	9	5	14
Bethel	1	13	2	16
Cordova	-	12	42	54
Dillingham	1	1	40	42
Fairbanks	49	439	64	552
Glennallen	-	3	18	21
Homer	22	64	136	222
Juneau	11	185	28	224
Kenai	5	74	-	79
Ketchikan	5	22	22	49
Kodiak	4	37	9	50
Kotzebue	1	2	-	3
Nome	10	6	1	17
Palmer	15	112	282	409
Petersburg	1	2	4	7
Seward	-	7	31	38
Sitka	4	27	12	43
Tok	-	-	7	7
Unalaska	-	-	60	60
Valdez	3	10	90	103
Wrangell	0	7	27	34
TOTAL	548	2,494	1,858	4,900
% OF TOTAL	11%	51%	38%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	21	243	93	357
Second	11	8	1	20
Third	466	1,782	1,686	3,934
Fourth	50	461	78	589

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1978 - FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE	
					1978 to FY81/82	FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	1,995	2,189	2,649	1,788	-11	-33
Barrow	0	0	2	10	--	
Bethel	12	11	9	18	+50	+100
Cordova	23	17	49	39	+70	-20
Dillingham	5	1	3	14	+180	+367
Fairbanks	609	570	514	492	-19	-4
Glennallen	25	9	11	16	-36	+45
Homer	105	103	165	161	+53	-2
Juneau	155	180	190	237	+53	+25
Kenai	71	74	66	75	+6	+14
Ketchikan	71	58	56	41	-42	-27
Kodiak	41	25	55	43	+5	-22
Kotzebue	0	2	0	--	--	--
Nome	10	17	9	10	--	+11
Palmer	49	124	206	294	+500	+43
Petersburg	1	3	3	1		
Seward	3	4	8	32	+967	+300
Sitka	19	30	35	32	+68	-9
Tok	1	1	2	7		
Unalaska	0	0	25	33	--	+32
Valdez	132	108	121	86	-35	-29
Wrangell	7	1	11	11	+38	--
TOTAL	3,335	3,527	4,189	3,440	+3	-18

Calander Year 1978-1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81-81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	254	272	295	322	+27	+9
Second	10	19	9	10	--	+11
Third	2,449	2,654	3,358	2,581	+5	-23
Fourth	622	582	527	527	-15	--

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1978-FY 81/82

COURT	1978	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	% INCREASE 1978 to FY81/82	% INCREASE FY80/81 to FY81/82
Anchorage	35,959	32,404	47,062	41,720	+16	-11
Barrow	13	10	12	3	-77	-75
Bethel	296	190	299	233	-21	-22
Cordova	131	486	318	249	+90	-22
Dillingham	30	8	120	38	+27	-68
Fairbanks	14,629	9,632	10,184	13,235	-10	+30
Glennallen	1,018	803	934	474	-53	-49
Homer	1,397	1,677	2,631	1,379	-1	-48
Juneau	8,323	12,064	13,807	4,862	-42	-65
Kenai	4,225	3,850	6,033	4,106	-3	-32
Ketchikan	2,189	2,162	1,912	1,451	-34	-24
Kodiak	1,202	1,216	1,756	1,555	+29	-11
Kotzebue	1	0	44	2		-95
Nome	190	172	317	211	+11	-33
Palmer	2,600	2,233	4,470	3,085	+19	-31
Petersburg	254	214	264	168	-34	-36
Seward	2,435	1,435	2,358	1,401	-43	-41
Sitka	905	712	987	977	+8	-1
Tok	291	184	1,017	693	+138	-32
Unalaska	0	44	121	166	--	+37
Valdez	823	825	696	569	-31	-18
Wrangell	503	504	775	285	-43	-63
TOTAL	77,414	70,825	96,117	76,862	-1	-20

Calendar Year 1978-1979 Fiscal Year (July-June) 80/81-81/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	12,174	15,656	17,745	7,743	-36	-56
Second	191	172	361	213	+11	-41
Third	49,820	44,981	66,499	34,742	+10	-18
Fourth	15,229	10,016	11,512	14,164	-7	+23

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
COMPOSITION OF DISPOSITIONS
FY 81/82

COURT	EQUIPMENT	SPEEDING	SIGNS/ CONTROL DEVICES	OTHER MOVING	LICENSE RESTRICTION	REGISTRATION/ TITLE	OTHER	TOTAL	*Unknown
Anchorage	1964	10033	6492	6094	3728	7276	6055	41720	78
Barrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	2
Bethel	10	19	36	20	12	31	16	233	89
Cordova	43	27	14	15	17	30	11	249	92
Dillingham	1	1	2	-	4	7	3	38	20
Fairbanks	1656	2828	2035	716	1705	1542	2745	13235	8
Glennallen	7	320	5	9	11	15	4	474	103
Homer	260	301	17	34	51	106	107	1379	503
Juneau	81	686	218	134	140	362	3202	4862	39
Kenai	711	1301	141	132	291	675	229	4106	626
Ketchikan	89	497	36	82	65	142	50	1451	496
Kodiak	72	237	90	62	85	155	56	1555	798
Kotzebue	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Nome	7	20	9	6	19	17	11	211	122
Palmer	97	1649	233	196	142	326	107	3085	335
Petersburg	2	56	19	9	4	7	17	168	54
Seward	74	569	27	29	53	57	70	1401	522
Sitka	169	312	25	46	22	98	21	977	284
Tok	98	32	7	6	23	129	114	693	293
Unalaska	8	41	7	3	6	7	10	166	84
Valdez	120	127	22	23	9	36	73	569	159
Wrangell	17	63	10	6	8	11	113	285	57
TOTAL	5486	19105	9446	7623	6395	11029	13014	76862	4764
% OF TOTAL	7%	25%	12%	10%	8%	14%	17%	100%	6%

*Tickets counted manually unable to enter in computer--required license search

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	358	1608	308	277	239	620	3403	7743	930
Second	7	21	10	6	19	17	11	213	122
Third	3357	14606	7050	6597	4397	8690	6725	54742	3320
Fourth	1764	2870	2078	743	1740	1702	2875	14164	392

DISTRICT COURT
(Lower Volume)

LOWER VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS CASELOAD - FY 82

Alaska's lower volume district courts experienced a 19% increase in case filings in FY 82. The major categories of increased filings in these courts consisted of criminal cases. Felony filings increased by 94% and misdemeanor filings increased by 47% in comparison to FY 81 levels. The number of traffc citation cases in the lower volume courts remained essentially the same level as in FY 81, in contrast to the significant decreases in the number of traffic cases reported by the higher volume district courts.

Filings for low volume courts in the first, second and fourth judicial districts (including service areas) increased by 12%, 112% and 26% respectively. Third district low volume courts reported a 13% decrease in the number of filings. All districts reported increases in the number of case dispositions during FY 82 with the statewide change being +18%.

Two fourth district magistrate posts had such an increase in case filings in FY 82 that these courts would have been included in the higher volume district court statistics if sufficient case related data had been available. Healy and Delta Junction reported increases of 137% and 60% in case filings respectively. Both courts reported significant increases in criminal caseload and their traffic workload approximately doubled from FY 81 levels.

The substantial increases in the low volume district court workload statewide were primarily in the non-traffic categories which accounted for approximately 65% of the courts' workload. Non-traffic case filings increased by 33% in these courts during FY 82.

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS
FY 81/82 FILINGS

JUDICIAL DISTRICT (INCL. SERVICE AREAS)	FELONY	MISDEMEANOR	TRAFFIC *	CIVIL	TOTAL
First	39	650	129	165	983
Second	8	297	13	6	324
Third	3	277	134	30	444
Fourth	76	530	942	124	1,672
TOTAL	126	1,754	1,218	325	3,423
% OF TOTAL	4%	51%	36%	9%	100%

*Traffic dispositions also used as filings

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS

JUDICIAL DISTRICT (INCL. SERVICE AREAS)	FELONY	MISDEMEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
First	24	594	129	101	848
Second	6	192	13	4	215
Third	1	285	134	55	475
Fourth	42	417	942	84	1,485
TOTAL	73	1,488	1,218	244	3,023
% OF TOTAL	2%	49%	40%	8%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY 81/82 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC*	CIVIL	TOTAL
Craig	14	188	78	19	299
Hoonah	6	88	0	-	94
Kake	2	40	1	7	50
Haines	13	170	16	67	266
Angoon	1	24	20	2	47
Skagway	2	26	14	67	109
Yakutat	1	114	0	3	118
TOTAL	39	650	129	165	983
% OF TOTAL	4%	66%	13%	17%	100%

*Traffic Dispositions also used as filings.

DISTRICT COURTS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY81/82 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Craig	7	168	78	13	266
Hoonah	4	85	-	0	89
Kake	1	33	1	5	40
Haines	9	159	16	27	211
Angoon	1	17	20	2	40
Skagway	1	23	14	52	90
Yakutat	1	109	-	2	112
TOTAL	24	594	129	101	848
% OF TOTAL	3%	70%	15%	12%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY81/82 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Buckland					
Gambell		20			20
Kiana		23		1	24
Pt. Hope		26		1	27
Noorvick		46			46
Saroonga		40			40
Selawik	1	39		4	44
Shungnak	1	14			15
Unalakleet	6	89	13		108
Wales					-
TOTAL	8	297	13	6	324
% OF TOTAL	2%	92%	4%	2%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY81/82 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	total
Buckland					
Gambell		20			20
Kiana		21		1	22
Pt. Hope		20		1	21
Noorvick		15			15
Saroonga		40			40
Selawik		32		2	34
Shungnak		5			5
Unalakleet	6	39	13		58
Wales					-
TOTAL	6	192	13	4	215
% OF TOTAL	3%	89%	6%	2%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY81/82 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC*	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay	1	36	10	4	51
Naknek		52	1		53
Sand Point		6			6
Seldovia		120	65	2	187
St. Paul Island		36			36
Whittier	2	27	58	24	111
TOTAL	3	277	134	30	444
% OF TOTAL	1%	62%	30%	7%	100%

*Traffic Dispositions also used as filings.

DISTRICT COURTS
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY81/82 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay		23	10	5	38
Naknek		55	1		56
Sand Point		5			5
Seldovia		139	65	3	207
St. Paul Island		34		1	35
Whittier	1	29	58	46	134
TOTAL	1	285	134	55	475
% OF TOTAL	.2%	60%	28%	12%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY81/82 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC*	CIVIL	TOTAL
Ft. Yukon	23	18	-	8	49
Galena	8	69		5	82
Healy	12	109	392	1	514
Nenana	2	39	110	24	175
Delta Jct	16	92	438	62	608
Tanana		16	1		17
TOTAL	61	343	941	100	1,445
% OF TOTAL	4%	24%	65%	7%	100%

*Traffic Dispositions also used as filings.

DISTRICT COURTS
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY81/82 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Ft. Yukon	10	15		20	45
Galena	4	40		0	44
Healy	3	109	392	5	509
Nenana	2	38	110	22	172
Delta Jct	10	68	438	25	541
Tanana		11	* 1		12
TOTAL	29	281	941	72	1,323
% OF TOTAL	2%	21%	71%	5%	100%

BETHEL SERVICE AREA
FY 81/82 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak	11	71		19	101
Emmonak	1	40			41
Hooper Bay	2	34		3	39
Kasigluk					
McGrath		17			17
Mekoryuk		6		2	8
Mt. Village	1	17			18
St. Marys		2	*1		3
Tununak					
TOTAL	15	187	1	24	227
% OF TOTAL	7%	82%	.4%	10%	100%

BETHEL SERVICE AREA
FY81/82 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak	10	50		8	68
Emmonak	1	37			38
Hooper Bay	1	20		2	23
Kasigluk					
McGrath		16			16
Mekoryuk		6		2	8
Mt. Village	1	6			7
St. Marys		1	*1		2
Tununak					
TOTAL	13	136	1	12	162
% OF TOTAL	8%	84%	1%	7%	100%

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACTION Judicial proceeding in which one party prosecutes another for the declaration, enforcement, or protection of a right; the redress or prevention of a wrong; the punishment of a public offense; or a proceeding brought under the Rules of Children's Procedure. Actions are categorized into the following types:

Civil

Administrative Review
Civil Damage (tort)
Domestic Affairs
General Civil Matters
Small Claims
Other (e.g., unlawful detainer)

Criminal

Felony
Misdemeanor
Other (e.g., failure to satisfy)

Other

Traffic
Probate
Children's Matters

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW An appeal to the Superior Court of decisions made by a regulatory agency.

APPEAL Request made to a higher court to review the actions of a lower court in order to correct mistakes or injustice.

ARRAIGNMENT First appearance before a court in which the defendant is informed of the charges against him, is appointed counsel if necessary and may be permitted to plead to the charges.

ASSIGNMENT Designation of a department or a judge to preside over one or all phases of a case.

BAIL Security given for the subsequent appearance in court of a prisoner in order to obtain his release from imprisonment.

CALENDAR Schedule of cases awaiting hearing, conference or trial.

CALENDAR SYSTEM System used for assigning and scheduling of court appearances. The system can be one of the following types:

1. Individual A system in which each case is assigned upon filing to a judge who is responsible for all phases of the case through final disposition.

2. Master (Central) A system of central assignment of cases during all phases of proceedings. As each successive phase of the case is ready for a hearing, conference or trial, the case is assigned at that point to the next available judge.

3. Special A system whereby judges are assigned to preside over cases in specific areas of legal practice (e.g., children's matters) or specific phases of the judicial process (e.g., motions for continuance).

4. Hybrid A system which combines features of various calendar systems. One such system may employ a special calendar for children's matters and motions for

continuance while using a master calendar for all other cases.

CALENDARING Assigning and scheduling of court appearances.

CASE Any action or special proceeding initiated through the filing of a complaint, petition, indictment or information. Cases are classified according to their status as follows:

1. Open. Any case in which final disposition has not taken place. Open cases include those cases which are:

a. Active. There has not been an unreasonable time since the last phase of the case has been completed and the next phase of the case is subject to calendaring.

b. Inactive. There is some reason which prevents the next phase of the case from being scheduled. The most common reason is failure to serve a warrant or summons.

2. Closed. Any case in which final disposition has taken place. This includes those inactive cases (e.g., warrant not served) which are closed due to prolonged inactivity but subject to subsequent court action.

3. Reopened. Any case previously closed that is reinstituted as an active case. This type of case includes appeals, probation revocations, failures to satisfy judgments and cases closed due to prolonged inactivity (e.g., warrant unserved) but newly subject to active court processing (e.g., warrant finally served).

CASE BACKLOG Total inventory of active cases.

CASE PROCESSING SYSTEM System employed by a court to move cases from filing to disposition. A well managed case processing system would include the following elements:

1. A calendar system (e.g., master, individual, etc.);

2. Consistently applied policies governing the processing of cases, especially a policy on continuances and court participation in encouraging settlement prior to trial;

3. Clearly defined responsibilities for judicial, clerical and administrative personnel of the court;

4. System performance and time standards for processing cases; and

5. Monitoring and evaluation procedures.

CHILDREN'S PROCEEDINGS Proceedings brought pursuant to AS 47.10 and the Rules of Children's Procedure. Such proceedings include:

1. Detention Inquiry. In-court proceeding to determine whether a child should be detained or placed in a foster home or shelter pending further proceedings. May resemble a contested hearing to review bail in adult criminal case.

2. Adjudication Hearing. In-court proceeding to determine the issue of delinquency, dependence or need of aid. May involve an admission by the party, in which case the hearing will resemble an arraignment and taking of guilty plea in adult criminal matters, or may be contested, in which case it will resemble a trial.

3. Disposition Hearing. In-court proceeding to determine the placement of a child found to be delinquent, dependent or in need of aid. Resembles contested sentencing hearing in adult criminal cases.

4. Waiver Hearing. In-court proceeding to determine whether there is probable cause to believe a child committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would be a crime and whether the child is amenable to treatment. If order is entered waiving children's procedure, the children's case is closed and the child may be prosecuted as an adult.

CHILDREN'S MATTER ISSUE The nature of the action placed before the court. Issues are defined as:

1. Delinquency. A child is determined delinquent who commits an act that would be a crime were he or she an adult.

2. Dependency A child is dependent upon the State if he or she is:

a. Abandoned;

b. Lacks proper parental care;

c. Associates with vagrant, vicious or criminal people;

d. Engages in an occupation or in a situation dangerous to life or limb or injurious to health, morals or welfare of himself or others;

e. Is an orphan who has no relatives willing and able to assume custody or care;

f. Has been released by his parents or guardian for adoptive purposes; and

g. Is in need of special care or training not otherwise provided.

3. Child in Need of Aid This is a child:

a. Being habitually absent from his home or refusing to accept available care, or having no parent, guardian, custodian or relative caring or willing to care for him, including physical abandonment by:

- both parents,

- the surviving parent, or

- one parent if the other parent's rights and responsibilities have been terminated or voluntarily relinqished.

b. Being in need of medical treatment to cure, alleviate, or prevent his suffering substantial physical harm or mental harm as evidenced by failure to thrive, severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or untoward aggressive behavior or hostility towards others, and his parents are unwilling to provide the medical treatment;

c. Having suffered substantial physical harm or if there is an imminent and substantial risk that the child will suffer such harm as a result of the actions done by or conditions created by his parent, guardian or custodian or the failure of his parent, guardian or custodian adequately to supervise him;

d. Having been sexually abused either by his parent, guardian or custodian, or as a result of conditions created by his parent, guardian or custodian, or by the failure of his parent, guardian or custodian adequately to supervise him; or

e. Committing delinquent acts as a result of pressure, guidance or approval from his parents, guardian or custodian.

COMPLAINT In civil practice, the complaint is the first pleading on the part of the plaintiff. In criminal law, a complaint is a charge that a person has committed a specified offense, with an offer to prove the fact, to the end that a prosecution may be instituted.

CONTINUANCE Postponement of a court proceeding to a later date or session of court.

COURT OF APPEALS An appellate court to process appeals of criminal cases originating in the Superior Courts and District Courts. Appeals from the Court of Appeals go to the Supreme Court which, at its discretion, may refuse to hear the appeal.

DEFAULT JUDGMENT A judgment against the side failing to take a required step in a lawsuit, e.g., failing to answer a complaint.

DEFERRED PROSECUTION Referral of a defendant for education, rehabilitation or treatment during which criminal proceedings are suspended by the prosecutor.

DISPOSITION Determination of a case, whether by dismissal, settlement, verdict or finding.

DOCKET Listing in some form (e.g., ledger, cards or microfilm) of all actions taken and all documents filed in a particular case. The purposes of the docket are:

1. To provide a chronological synopsis of each case in order to minimize reference to the official case file;

2. To provide an inventory of all documents that should be contained in the official case file; and

3. To gather information for statistical purposes.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS Cases involving laws dealing with the family including divorce, dissolution of marriage, reciprocal support, change of name, etc.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Behavior defined as crimes in AS 11.41: homicide, assault, and reckless endangerment, kidnapping and custodial interference, sexual offenses, and robbery, extortion and coercion. The activity must be between spouses, former spouses or members of a social unit living in the same household.

ELECTRONIC COURT REPORTING The taking of the record of courtroom proceedings by means of electronic recording devices.

EXCLUSIONARY RULE A rule providing that illegally gathered evidence may not be used in a criminal trial.

FELONY A criminal offense for which the minimum penalty upon conviction may be one year's imprisonment. Felonies are grouped into the following categories:

1. Violent crimes against persons;

2. Property crimes;

3. Drug crimes;

4. Check forgery;

5. Fraud crimes; and

6. "Other" crimes.

Robbery is considered a special category of its own, for it contains elements of both "violence" and "property" crimes, and has unique conviction and sentencing patterns (adapted from Appendix II, Sentencing in Alaska, Judicial Council [1975]). Each category contains the following individual crimes:

Violent

1. All homicides (murders, manslaughter and negligent homicide);

2. All assaults (shooting with intent to kill; assault with a dangerous weapon; assault and battery; assault with intent to rob, rape, etc.);

3. All "weapons" charges (felon in possession, careless use of firearms, carrying a weapon during commission of a felony);

4. Rape and other sex-related crimes that are "violent" (lewd and lascivious acts, statutory rape, sodomy and incest); and

5. Kidnapping and child stealing.

Property

1. Burglary in a dwelling, burglary not in a dwelling, attempted burglaries;

2. Grand larceny, larceny in a building, larceny from a person, larceny of money or property, attempted larcenies;

3. Receiving and concealing, retention of lost property; and

4. All arsons, burnings to defraud insurer, malicious destruction of property (not included under "violent" because not against persons).

Fraud and Forgery or Check and Fraud

1. Check forgeries, attempts and passing forged checks; altering checks and passing altered checks;

2. Issuing checks without sufficient funds;

3. Obtaining property or money under false pretenses;

4. All forms of embezzlement; and

5. All other forgeries, false statements and fraudulent use of credit cards.

Drugs

1. All "soft" drug charges (hallucinogenic, stimulant or depressant drugs, chiefly marijuana, hashish, LSD, etc.) - possession, possession for sale, and sale;

2. All "hard" drug charges (heroin, cocaine, etc.) - possession, possession for sale, and sale;

3. Manufacture of hard drugs; and

4. Attempted sales, and sales to minors.

Others

1. Escape;

2. Perjuries;

3. Concealment of evidence;

4. Inciting commission of a felony;

5. Tax evasion and false tax returns;

6. Attempting to procure female for prostitution; and

7. Failure to render assistance, leaving scene of accident.

GENERAL (OTHER) CIVIL MATTERS Noncriminal cases generally involving dispute of some form of contract. Examples include debts, business claims, foreclosures and labor relations.

GRAND JURY A panel of citizens selected from a master jury list sworn in to receive and make formal accusations (i.e., issue indictments).

GUARDIAN AD LITEM A guardian, usually a lawyer, who is appointed by the court to take care of another person's interests during a lawsuit involving that person.

HEARING (Contested) An in-court proceeding other than a trial requiring judicial determination of one or more contested factual or legal matters. Examples include hearings on motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, for new trial, to compel discovery, to suppress evidence, etc. in civil and criminal cases, and contested bail review and sentencing hearings in criminal cases. Contested hearings are considered as part of the trial of a case if heard during, immediately preceeding or immediately following the trial.

HEARING (Uncontested) An in-court proceeding having the primary purpose of placing undisputed factual or legal matters on the record as may be required by rule or as a prerequisite to entry of judgment. Examples include waivers of speedy trial in a criminal case; taking of guilty plea and sentencing other than at arraignment where the sentence is the product of an out-of-court agreement between prosecution and defense; hearing on application for default judgment or decree.

INDICTMENT Formal accusation presented by a grand jury which charges a person with a felony.

INFORMATION Formal accusation presented by a District Attorney which charges a person with a felony after waiver of grand jury and after a finding that a felony has been committed and that there is probable cause to believe that it was committed by the person charged.

JUDGE DAY For planning purposes, a judge day is assumed to comprise four hours of bench time for Superior Court and four and one-half hours for District Court, with the remainder of time spent in chambers or elsewhere. (Reference "Administrative Analysis of the King County District Courts," Western Region of the National Center for State Courts, August 28, 1975 [pp. 144-145].)

JUDGMENT Final decree or any final order from which an appeal can be made.

JURISPRUDENCE The philosphy of law.

MANDATE A written order by the Supreme Court which lower courts are bound to obey.

MASTER JURY LIST An annually updated list of Alaska citizens who are prospective jurors. The list is compiled by merging voter registration, income tax and fish and game license lists, and correcting for names that appear on more than one list.

MISDEMEANORS Violations of criminal law for which the maximum sentence that can be levied is one year. We have grouped misdemeanors into nine categories:

1. Violence Related. Those misdemeanors in which some physical violence is alleged to have occurred or the potential for violence is alleged to have been demonstrated. Included in this category are assault and battery, assault, carrying a concealed weapon and malicious destruction of property.

2. Theft/Fraud. Those misdemeanors associated with theft or fraud. This category includes concealment of merchandise or shoplifting, concealing stolen property, defrauding an innkeeper (e.g., refusing to pay a legitimate bill), false statements and reports, fraudulent use of a credit card, petty larceny, taking a watercraft, joyriding, and worthless checks.

3. Environmental. Those misdemeanors where it is alleged that some part of the environment has been damaged. This category includes dog and animal-related offenses, fish and game violations, littering and junk-related offenses and pollution.

4. Nuisance-Related. Those misdemeanors constituting minor nuisance to the public. This category includes disorderly conduct, indecent exposure, loitering and trespassing.

5. Alcohol/Drugs. Those misdemeanors involving excessive use of alcohol and drugs, other than traffic-related offenses.

6. Vice. Those misdemeanors in which the offense is related to morals. This category includes gambling, prostitution, solicitation and other misdemeanor crimes dealing with sex.

7. Resisting the Law. Those misdemeanors where it is alleged that the defendant thwarted the activities of a law enforcement official. This category includes aiding escape, escape, destroying evidence, fugitive from justice and resisting arrest.

8. Traffic Related. Those misdemeanors involving driving. This category includes operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (OMVI), leaving the scene of an accident, other accident violations, (e.g., failure to report), operator's license violations, reckless driving and negligent driving.

9. Other. All misdemeanors not belonging to one of the above categories.

PEREMPTORY CHALLENGE A device permitted by court rule allowing either side to disqualify the assigned judge or prospective jurors from participating in the case without stating any reasons. The number of peremptory challenges allowed is limited. Further disqualifications can be made only for specific cause.

PHASE Particular stage or point in the judicial process requiring judicial or administrative action. The following are possible phases in civil and criminal actions:

Civil

1. Filing of complaint or petition.
2. Filing answer.
3. Setting for trial.
4. Motions.
5. Conferences: pretrial, settlement, trial setting.
6. Trial.
7. Posttrial: motions, appeals.

Misdemeanor

1. Filing of complaint.
2. Arraignment.
3. Plea and appointment of counsel.
4. Pretrial conference.
5. Pretrial disposition.
6. Trial.
7. Posttrial: motions, probation report, sentencing, appeals.

Felony

1. Filing of complaint.
2. District Court arraignment.
3. District Court preexamination disposition.
4. District Court preliminary examination.
5. Grand Jury.
6. Filing of information or indictment.
7. Superior Court arraignment.
8. Plea.
9. Motions.
10. Conferences: trial setting, pretrial.
11. Pretrial disposition.
12. Trial.
13. Posttrial: motions, probation report, sentencing, appeals.

PLEA BARGAINING An agreement made between a prosecutor and defendant to plead guilty to a lesser charge instead of continuing prosecution on the original.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (or Preliminary Hearing) Hearing conducted in a District Court to determine whether a felony has been committed and whether sufficient cause exists to believe the defendant guilty. The results of the preliminary examination include:

1. Dismissal.
2. Reduction of charge to a misdemeanor.
3. Held to answer (bound over to the Superior Court).
4. Discharge (no formal complaint filed).

PRETRIAL CONFERENCE A conference before a judge reciting stipulations and admissions, amendments allowed to pleadings, and any other action which may control the subsequent course of action of the case. The conference may result in a pretrial conference order.

PROBATE CASE Matters dealing with the proof of wills, protection of estates, and sensitive areas such as adoption, sanity and protective institutionalization.

PROCEEDING Any hearing or court appearance related to the adjudication of a case.

RECIPROCAL SUPPORT Matters dealing with the agreement between states to prosecute alleged failures to pay child support or alimony when the two parties involved live in different states.

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE Conference with a judge or judicial personnel at which the parties discuss the possibility of disposing of the case without a trial.

SHORT CAUSE CASE Case with an estimated trial time of one day or less, as estimated by the parties.

SMALL CLAIMS Civil damage and general civil cases filed in the District Court where the amount in dispute is $2,000 or less and both parties agree to abide by less formal court rules and procedures.

SUSPENDED IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE (SIS) A condition whereby, if a convicted misdemeanant passes a specified period of time (e.g., one year) without another conviction, the conviction on this case may be set aside.

TORT A private or civil wrong independent of any contract.

TRAFFIC INFRACTION An alleged violation of motor vehicle laws for which convictions will result in no jail time being assessed and a maximum fine of $300.

TRANSCRIPT A typed copy of the electronically recorded courtroom record.

TRIAL An in-court proceeding of a contested case (the matter is in dispute) at which evidence is presented and a final judgment on all matters in dispute is expected. The trial may be by jury or by court (without jury). The trial is separated into the following phases:

1. Voir Dire (Jury trial only.) The oral examination of potential jurors for selection and elimination of jurors from a jury panel.

2. Proceedings Opening statements by counsel, the presentation of testimony and other evidence by the parties, motions during the trial and arguments of counsel.

3. Deliberation (Jury trial only.) The time required of a jury to weigh the evidence in order to arrive at a verdict.

4. Verdict (Jury trial only.) Announcement in open court of a jury verdict and polling of jury, if requested.

5. Decision/Finding (Non-jury trial.) Announcement in open court of court's decision on the merits immediately following proceedings. Considered an uncontested hearing if case taken under advisement and decision is announced in open court at a later time.

6. Pretrial/Posttrial Hearing. Hearings on motions occuring immediately before jury selection or plaintiff's opening statement, or immediately after proceedings, verdict or decision.

TRIAL BACKLOG Total inventory of cases at issue. A civil case is at issue upon the filing of an answer by any defendant. A criminal case is at issue when the defendant is arraigned before a court having jurisdiction to try the case.

TRIAL SETTING CONFERENCE Conference held in lieu of pretrial conference at which it is determined whether a case is ready. If so, a trial date is set. At this conference, procedural details only are determined and no restatement of the issues is made.

VENUE The local area where a case may be tried.

WORKLOAD INDICATORS These indicators reflect relative workload, backlog and resources expanded per court.

1. Workload

a. Dispositions Per Judge: The average amount of dispositions filed per full-time judge assigned. This indicator can either be computed on a gross basis or the number of judges assigned can be altered to reflect travel, vacation or assignment of judges to other locations.

$$\text{Dispositions Per Judge} = \frac{\#\text{ Cases Disposed of}}{\#\text{ Judges Assigned}}$$

b. Dispositions to Filings: The rates by which cases disposed of follow cases filed. A figure of 100% is optimal. A figure below 100% indicates an increase in backlog. A figure above 100% indicates a decrease in backlog.

$$\text{Dispositions to Filings} = \frac{\#\text{ Cases Disposed of}}{\#\text{ Cases Filed}}$$

2. Backlog

a. Backlog Months: A gross measure of how long it would take to dispose of current backlog if cases were disposed of at the same rate as in the immediate past.

$$\text{Backlog Months} = \frac{\#\text{ Cases Pending}}{\text{Cases Disposed of Per Month}}$$

b. Delayed Case: The percent of cases pending after an established period of time. For criminal cases this period of time is four months; for all other cases it is one year.

$$\text{Delayed Case Ratio} = \frac{\#\text{ Cases Pending Beyond Period}}{\#\text{ Cases Pending}}$$

3. Resources Expended (efficiency).

a. Personnel Ratio: The number of full-time, permanent employees at any location compared to case activity at that location.

$$\text{Personnel Ratio} = \frac{\#\text{ Fulltime Permanent Employees}}{\#\text{ Cases Disposed of}}$$

b. Budget Ratio: The amount of nonpersonnel, noncapital dollars expended per case activity.

$$\text{Budget Ratio} = \frac{\text{Nonpersonnel, Noncapital Dollars Expended}}{\#\text{ Cases Disposed of}}$$